

Date: Lundi 22 septembre 1997 0:16:56
From: (b)(7)c
Subj: Distribution Monopoly
To: antitrust@usdoj.gov

Dear Mr. Klein,

I have been a small business owner in (b)(7c)
Our business and hundreds of others in the US are currently on the brink
of forced bankruptcy due to the monopolistic actions of a Maryland
corporation, Diamond Comic Distributors Inc.,
1966 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD 21093
phone 410-560-7100

The problem involves the distribution of new comic books- but don't let
that divert your scrutiny. That's exactly how things got this far. The
story also involves some of the largest corporations in the country as
well as hundreds of millions of dollars, much of it in cash
transactions.

The distribution of new comic books became largely "direct sale" in
1974. This meant that a vendor would receive the issues earlier, cheaper
but non-returnable. Due to the higher profit potential what became to be
known as "the direct sales market" emerged from a relatively small
industry to a huge and hugely profitable one. The direct sales market is
the source for the Superman and Batman films as well as "Ed Wood",
"Mars Attacks", "Spawn", and literally hundreds more. The curious thing
is that even though the spinoffs from the market are huge blockbusters
the general public has never been made aware of the fact that the
direct sales market is the original source of these properties.

It is through this public perception loophole that Diamond Comic
Distributors formulated an ingenious plan to take over the entire hugely
profitable direct sales market.

By the 1980's the direct sales market had over 30 distributors . The
competition was fierce and that kept things lively. In fact it was this
competition throughout the 1980's that introduced many new products and
helped the market place grow.

Although it is not known because there are virtually no businesses from this
time period remaining, Diamond began its take over here. They purchased New
Media and all of their warehouses and sub-distributors and began buying up
all the small distributors in the south.

By 1990 approx. a dozen independent full line national distributors remained
along with small regional wholesalers.

The big step in the current Diamond monopoly took place, largely unnoticed in
this country, in the early 1990's.

Titan Distributors Ltd. in London, England was the only original distributor

still remaining. Started in 1978 (the same year we did) Titan was a huge distributorship servicing the UK, Europe and Asia.

In a surprise move Diamond bought out Titan. Now for the average business in the US this wouldn't mean much. However as importers we were immediately up against a company which now dominated the market overseas AS WELL as the US.

Diamond has in fact had a monopoly in the UK for many years now.

All of the next dominoes were in the US and were so calculated that they can actually be tracked on a map.

At the time of the Titan take over Diamond had a strangle hold on retailers in the south but they had little presence in the northeast and midwest and no presence in the west. This would change rapidly.

(Ms. Gorriz, please excuse me at this point. While every name, business and action listed after this are true I may inadvertently reverse a few of the buyout times. I don't have my notes on front of me.)

Diamond attacked the US:

They bought out Second Genesis- a distributor owning a chain of warehouses from Oregon down to California.

This move caused several of the other smaller distributors under due to heavy marketing campaigns in the west to get customers to switch.

They bought out Comics Unlimited in Staten Island, NY. Comics Unlimited at the time was the oldest US distributor. They had heavy penetration into the Northeastern US including almost all of the coveted NYC market.

The buyout of Comics Unlimited surprised almost everyone. And panicked many. It was clear at this point that Diamond was going for the entire country.

At this time any distributor who didn't want to sell out was forced to close.

As of 1995 There were 3 distributors remaining:

Capital City Distribution Inc. in Madison , Wisconsin

Heroes World in Randolph, New Jersey Diamond Comic

Distributors, Inc. in Timonium, Maryland

Of these 3 remaining distributors Capital City was the largest with customers and warehouses all over the US and heavy coverage of the coveted midwest. I can only described what Diamond did at this point as declaring a nuclear attack on Capital City Distribution.

Diamond spent hundreds of thousands of dollars pounding retailers with full page advertising in every major magazine. The ads were pointed directly at Capital City.

Then things got really nasty. Diamond started announcing "exclusive distribution" contracts. These contracts, unheard of in the history of the market, are directly responsible for the state the market has deteriorated to today.

When Diamond got DC Comics/Warner Bros. to ONLY distribute their comics through them it was the beginning of the end. It meant Capital City and Heroes World could not supply their customers with those issues: It meant

that EVERY retailer had to go to Diamond.

Seeing the damage this move caused the competition Diamond forged ahead arrogantly claiming that no one from the Justice Department was ever going to bother them because it was just comic books.

Acclaim (a publicly traded entertainment conglomerate)

Image (publisher, toy maker, HBO's The Spawn series, The Spawn movie, others)

Dark Horse (The Mask movie and many others)

then signed up with Diamond.

By 1996 panic had set into the direct sales publishers. Dozens of publishers had signed exclusive distribution deals with Diamond and the numbers were increasing every day.

Diamond took a heavy handed approach to those publishes who wouldn't capitulate.

Exclusive publishers were given unlimited FREE full color advertising space in their monthly catalog. Publishers who refused to sign up (like us) were relegated to the back of the catalog as just a line listing. If we wanted our product simply pictured we had to pay for it. Our average comic print run range before this policy was from

10,000 to 22,000 copies. After this policy orders plunged to 700 to 1500 copies.

The Diamond catalog swelled from 200 pages to almost 500.

By August of 1996 Diamond had made it impossible for Capital City to get any product. Capital had been forced out of business.

Diamond bought out Capital City.

The only hold out anywhere was Marvel Comics, the world's largest comic company.

Marvel had refused to go along with the exclusive scheme opting instead to distribute themselves through Heroes World.

On March 31, 1997 Diamond completed its goal. In a little over 11 years, unknown to the general public and to federal regulators Diamond controlled 100% of the market when they signed up Marvel Comics for exclusive distribution.

To the best of my knowledge this case is unique.

Is it a monopoly? Well they have 100% of the market!! I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE.

Diamond hasn't stopped there though. They are now buying up all the price guides, trade journals and supply companies. THEY will control ALL pricing NEW and OLD. So it really doesn't matter what we do, all the money goes in their pocket.

While I've been typing this I've received 2 E-mails from Diamond demanding more cash. Of course they conveniently ignore the fact that they owe US money!! With several thousand stores paying them several thousand dollars in cash every week one wonders where all this cash is going.

This is not a small matter, I've pulled up business information on Diamond and the income (that they report) is over \$100 million dollars.

Well Ms. Gorri, that's where things are now.

Diamond has been very calculating and clever. In retrospect one can see what their goal was and how it was planned.

I only hope your office can help. As I said due to Diamond's demands it appears I will have to close my business next week. I really hate thinking that Diamond will get away with this.

PLEASE contact me for any further information,

Most sincerely,

(b)(7)c

From: (b)(7)c
To: ATRXEB01.WTGATE("dania.gorri@justice.usdoj.gov@in...
Date: 9/25/97 8:43pm
Subject: Diamond Comic Distributors 1

Dear Ms. Gorriz,

Thank you so very much for your call today.

I have been attempting since January of this year to get someone to examine this case. Of course since that time it has gotten much worse.

When Diamond began this monopoly our company utilized many different distributors with 30 day credit terms. We had an excellent credit profile and should an emergency arise we could always get funds from a bank.

Now , after a year of "cash only" terms from Diamond our credit is shot. When a business is forced every week to take a finite amount of cash out of its account against an unknown amount of cash coming in there will always be problems. We are a legitimate business. We don't deal in "cash" transactions, especially when they are thousands of dollars a week. One bank dropped us because of these transactions and our current bank won't consider loaning us a cent. These transactions look suspicious because well, they look suspicious!

Diamond's monopoly has affected us (and me) on other levels though.

Not only do we own a retail store but we are also a publisher as well as an importer of magazines from the UK for US distribution. To the best of my knowledge we are the only business of this type in this market. Unfortunately every one of our segment businesses have been destroyed by Diamond"s monopoly.

In a true market not every distributor will be interested in your products.

This is only natural. However , often competing companies will add product lines that possibly they normally didn't sell just to remain competitive.

This is also natural.

However what we, as publishers and importers are now faced with, is just one possible buyer for our products!!! Since they have either bought out or driven out of business every other distributor there is absolutely no natural competition.

When we announce new products now it is to one company. That is ludicrous. Our sales have gone from \$600,000 a year and increasing to \$300,000 a year and decreasing due to the fact that there is no free market for us to sell to.

Diamond's exclusive distribution agreements with Marvel, DC Comics/Warner and dozens more insure that NO new distributors will EVER be able to open in this market.

Diamond's take over, cash terms and cutting our business in half has taken a heavy toll on me personally.

To attempt to get them to listen to reason I have even driven to Baltimore, MD .

All for nothing.

I have liquidated all my retirement funds, sold my investments and literally trashed my life to get their cash to them every week. I informed them and they don't care.

On June 3, 1997 I was forced to file Chapter 13 bankruptcy personally. I chose this route because I refuse to believe my business can be destroyed in this manner in the US. Everything I've worked for is gone. I have not drawn a paycheck since Diamond stepped in. I am limited to \$200 a month for living expenses including food. I have a serious medical condition which requires daily medication. Often I am now forced to go without although doing so can cause seizures.

In short I have gone from proudly being listed in "The Who's Who of American Business" to

hoping I'll be alive next year. I AM a good businessman and my skills have not diminished at all. I cannot operate successfully however when someone else, in this case Diamond Comic Distributors Inc., takes control of my store, my finances and where and when and if my products will be distributed.

I want my life back. And I want my business back.

I am going to send you this material in parts because there appears to be a limit placed on the size of your incoming messages.

The first message will show you what I received back from the postmaster when I tried to send the letter previously. I hope it makes sense to you.

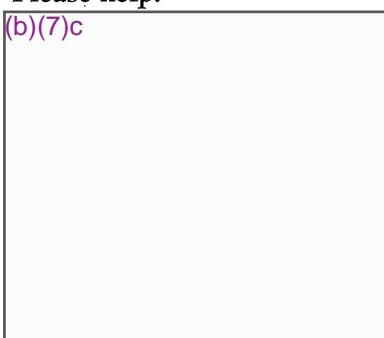
I know all of this is very long but it is necessary to help understand.

Thanks again.

My story, files, assistance, 25 year knowledge
of the market are yours.

Please help.

(b)(7)c



my personal e-mail is:

(b)(7)c





U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Liberty Place Building
325 7th Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20530

September 30, 1997

COMICS
60-2721-0009
Moltenbrey
Edelheit
CTF-Files
Mucchetti
Villa
Osmer
Ozeri
Raskovich

MJM:JDV
60-2721-0009

mjm
Michael F. Brockmeyer, Esq.
Piper & Marbury
36 South Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Re: Civil Investigative Demand No. 16970

Dear Mike:

We appreciated your coming in and discussing the response of Diamond Comic Distributors, Inc. ("Diamond") to the above-referenced Civil Investigative Demand ("CID"). Based on our September 25 meeting and our telephone call yesterday, I will below summarize all modifications and clarifications we have reached.

Definitions

2. "Diamond": The definition's inclusion of Capital City Distribution, Inc., Friendly Franks, Inc., and Comics Unlimited, Inc. is applicable only to those documents in Diamond's possession, custody, or control which formerly belonged to any of these entities. Unless specifically stated, this definition does not require Diamond to provide interrogatory responses for any of these entities. Further, the Department of Justice ("Department") agrees to defer, for the time being, production of documents from all other "affiliates" of Diamond other than Diamond Comic Distributors, Inc.

6. "Exclusive Distributor Agreement": This definition does not include situations in which Diamond has a non-contractual relationship with a person based solely on a published volume discount schedule.

Instructions

3: Diamond may produce copies, rather than originals, of all documents requested under this CID.

Interrogatories

7 and 8: At our meeting, you informed us that Diamond created a Retailer Advisory Board sometime within the last ten to twelve months. You promised to get us the date that this Board was created. This Board, which does not meet, is composed of retailers who are interested in independent comic book sales. The Board was created to review comics that Diamond initially rejected for publication, but were of a quality such that Diamond wanted the opinion of others in the industry. The Board members review these publications and advise Diamond whether to publish these comics. We agreed that Diamond would provide the Department with a more complete description of how this Board operates, including the identity of all Diamond employees involved with the Board. We also agreed that Diamond would produce documents sufficient to identify all publications that Diamond has declined to publish--the rejection letters that Diamond has sent to the publishers. For the period 1994 to the date of the Board's creation, Diamond will describe its process for reviewing and rejecting publishers' works, including the identity of all Diamond employees involved. The Department agreed to defer, for the time being, production of documents sufficient to identify all publishers rejected during this earlier period, but we agreed that Diamond would try to determine how many such rejections existed and how the Department could get this information if necessary.

9: Diamond agreed to identify all retailers with which Diamond no longer does business. Based upon a review of this list, the Department may request additional information on specific retailers.

Document Requests

2: The Department seeks only internal Diamond documents, not those, such as Dialogue, which are published.

3: For publications other than Previews and its corresponding retailer order booklets, Diamond will produce one copy of each.

6: This request does not call for "operational" documents, i.e., those generated in the day to day business done under the relevant contracts.

7: The Department agreed to defer Diamond's response.

9: Diamond agreed to produce all customer satisfaction surveys, internal memoranda analyzing such surveys, and all documents summarizing or discussing recurring retailer complaints. Though the Department expressed its strong interest in getting copies of all documents in customer files relating to the subject of this document request, we agreed to defer this for the time being. However, we agreed that Diamond would look into how best to respond to this request in full should the need arise.

10: Diamond agreed to determine whether there were any responsive documents in the files of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering which were not also in Diamond's files.

14-18: For all of these requests, you would produce all published documents responsive to all of these requests, as well as all internal documents, including those that discuss margins, cooperative advertising agreements, and changes in price.

19: You noted that there may be no documents responsive to this request and Diamond may instead provide the Department with an interrogatory response.

20: You noted that Diamond has no documents reflecting its top 200 retailers on an annual basis; retailer data is kept on a weekly basis. Diamond agreed to produce the top 200 retailers for 1997 and will write a computer program that will provide the remaining information for 1994-96.

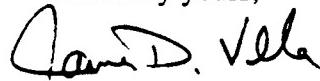
21: You noted that Diamond has no documents reflecting its top 100 publishers on an annual basis; publisher data is kept on a monthly basis. Diamond agreed to produce the top 100 publishers for 1996 and 1997 and will write a computer program that will provide the remaining information for 1994-95.

22: We clarified that this request is broader than interrogatories 7, 8, and 9 and would include any documents discussing, describing, or summarizing whether Diamond has declined to distribute any publisher's comic book, has declined to list any publisher's comic book in its publications, or has declined to distribute comic books to any retailer.

We agreed that Diamond would produce the following responses by the original CID date of October 6: interrogatories 4, 5, and 6 and document requests 1, 3, 5, 8, 13, and 23. Diamond will produce the following responses on October 21: interrogatories 1, 2 and 3 and document requests 2, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20 and 21. Diamond will produce the following responses on November 15: interrogatories 7, 8, and 9 and document requests 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 22.

If any of the statements in this letter do not correspond with your understanding of our agreements, please contact me at (202) 514-8361 so that we may discuss them.

Sincerely yours,



James D. Villa
Trial Attorney
Civil Task Force

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10/2/97 Plain Dealer (Clev.) 6E

1997 WL 6616466

(Publication page references are not available for this document.)

The Plain Dealer Cleveland, OH
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Thursday, October 2, 1997

ARTS & LIVING

ON COMICS

ARCHIE, JUG & CO. FACE UNIFORMS AT SCHOOL

Mike Sangiacomo

Will Riverdale High School force Archie, Jughead, Betty and Veronica, and the rest of its students to abandon their individuality and wear uniforms?

Probably not, but not before the debate is thrashed out in a three-issue treatment in the Archie line of comics beginning Oct. 17. Archie has been in high school since the mid-1940s (talk about a lack of student achievement!) and for most of that time he wore his own "uniform." It consisted of a pair of plaid pants, a white shirt with a sweater vest bearing a big "R" for Riverdale. His pal Jughead wore some kind of Maynard G. Krebs dark pants and T-shirt with a goofy spiked hat.

In the 100th issue of "Jughead," Archie's individuality is tested when school officials debate imposing a school uniform policy. The story continues into "Archie" No. 467 (on sale Oct. 24) and "Betty" No. 57 (on sale Oct. 31), where it is resolved.

Sabrina the Teenage Witch and Josie and the Pussycats somehow get shoehorned into the story.

The uniform issue heats up when Archie and Betty realize that if everyone wears the same outfit, the two of them can compete with wealthy fashion plates like Veronica and Reggie. For years, the snob Veronica has been lording her wealth over everyone else at the school, and maybe it's about time to bring the nouveau riche capitalist clotheshorse down.

As Marvel Comics goes through the throes of financial ruin and rescue, depending on whose version you read, the infusion of writing and art talent planned for the end of the year is long overdue.

In fact, Marvel had better get its editorial act together soon before there is nothing left to

salvage.

The quality gap between DC and Marvel gets larger each month as DC consistently produces intriguing, powerfully written and beautifully drawn comics while Marvel sputters along with more misses than hits.

The best at Marvel these days are "Thunderbolts" and "The Hulk." The T-bolts are villains posing as good guys and the Hulk is a very complicated guy these days. But as good as they are, they don't come close in quality to DC's, "JLA," "Starman," "Spectre," the edgy "Resurrection Man" and about half of the Batman titles.

Next on Marvel's quality ladder are the Spider-Man titles. These are generally well-written and drawn and are the only place where the characters, like the obit writer at the Daily Bugle, poke fun at the tendency of dead characters to return to life.

"I have almost a dozen file cabinets stuffed with stories which I filed and then had to retract," bemoans the obit writer after learning that Dr. Octopus was back from Club Dead. "Spider-Man, Daredevil, the Hulk, they've all been reported killed. And don't get me started on the X-Men."

Very good stuff, just the right mixture of adventure and Angst, with some occasional silliness. It's on a par with DC's "Superman" family of comics and the other half of the Batman books, but not as good as DC's second strata of stars like "The Flash," "Green Lantern" and "Aquaman."

The biggest victims at Marvel these days are the X-Men books. What happened here? What are these terrible artists and writers doing on Marvel's biggest-selling comics - besides destroying them?

Is there anything left of the X-Men of old, the group that people fell in love with? I sure don't see much of that old magic anymore. And can anyone explain how Husk, of Generation X, manages to peel off her skin for a new power without first taking off her clothes?

The return of the Avengers, the Fantastic Four, Captain America and Iron Man can't come soon enough for me.

Let's talk about the new titles at Marvel designed to lend some hope. "Deadpool," I don't get. Besides the art, which I really hate, I find the stories unreadable and depressing. Marvel is striving for a version of DC's "Hitman" and coming up with "Lobo."

"Alpha Flight" might turn out to be decent; it's too soon to tell. Likewise for "Heroes for Hire."

"Elektra" should be killed again, for good this time, and "What If" should be called "Who Cares?" The new "Quicksilver" series is one of the worst drawn and written debuts I've seen in years. It reads like it was written and drawn by a 12-year-old.

Not that DC doesn't have its dogs. The entire Helix line is pretty much unreadable. John Byrne can tinker with "Wonder Woman" all he wants and it still comes out dull. Chris Claremont is living in a fool's paradise if he thinks that "Sovereign Seven" is anything but cannon fodder.

I wish Marvel a speedy recovery. In the meantime, DC comics remain at the top of my reading list.

TABULAR OR GRAPHIC MATERIAL SET FORTH IN THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT DISPLAYABLE

PHOTO: ARCHIE COMICS The Archie gang is divided over whether students at Riverdale High School should be issued uniforms. The story line will cross over into this month's issues of "Jughead," "Archie" and "Betty."

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

EDITION: FINAL / ALL

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DATE AND TIME PRINTING STARTED: 10/07/97 11:32:43 am (Central)

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CLIENT IDENTIFIER: COMICS

DATE OF REQUEST: 10/07/97

THE CURRENT DATABASE IS ALLNEWS

YOUR TERMS AND CONNECTORS QUERY:

MARVEL & COMICS & DA (AFT 9/28/1997)

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10/6/97 Daily Telegraph (London) 18

1997 WL 2343344

(Publication page references are not available for this document.)

The Daily Telegraph London
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Monday, October 6, 1997

The Arts: The end of the art market Godfrey Barker and Laura Stewart ask: where
did all the Old Masters go?

GODFREY BARKER ; LAURA STEWART

CIGARS, T-Rex dinosaur skeletons, a villa in the Virgin Islands, 1950 Mike Hawthorn
crash helmets, Mickey Mouse bonnet caps, shipwrecked gold, Rolex watches, baseball tickets,
German movie posters, Marvel comics, boxing gloves, polo ground tickets, Charles Barkley
basketball shoes, Olympic torches, motorbikes, Mary Quant red rubberised ankle boots,
lampposts, gold opera capes - all are on offer by Christie's and Sotheby's in September and
October.

Where, you might wonder, has art gone? Yes, a few George II cabinets and bird
watercolours by Archibald Thorburn sneaked in among the kipper ties, sunglasses, Life magazines
and merry-go-round horses, crossing the auction block these last few weeks; but they were the
handsome minority.

The market is headed - predicts Christopher Davidge, chief executive of Christie's - for a
future, by the year 2000, in which fewer than half the lots sold by the world's top auction houses
will have anything at all to do with the Fine and Decorative Arts.

Instead, "collectibles" and anything the rich might covet are slowly but surely taking over
the art market. Horses, jets, houses from the West Indies to Bali and Manhattan to Belgravia,
Thames riverboats, John Lennon's bathroom door, yachts, garden gates, crocodile hatboxes,
dream dinners with sports figures and celebrities, space rocks, pinball machines, wedding cake,
fountain pens and pencils have all been luxuries hammered down for millions in New York and
London in 1996-97, restoring the revenues which used to come from Rembrandt, Renoir and
Rauschenberg.

Great Old Masters have largely vanished from the saleroom; great Monets and Picassos
and Jackson Pollocks are rapidly following them into unobtainability.

Why? Where have they gone? For 50 years museums in the US, Japan and across Europe
have been taking paintings and works of art off the market. There are perhaps 10 times the
number that existed in 1945; some are impossibly rich, such as the Getty in California or the

Kimbell in Texas. Then 52 years of peace and prosperity - this is the Golden Age of the Medici in which we live - have taken Rembrandts and Van Goghs into private, intergenerational trusts from which they will not emerge, for a century at least. Not even a 1929 Wall Street crash, a Third World War, can break down these trusts' impregnability.

Not all the reasons for which art is disappearing are above board. Art has become a defence against wealth tax in France and other European countries; it is a sure way of exempting rich men's fortunes from the taxman. A growing number of Italians and Japanese use paintings as a fraudulent currency - "I owe you \$1m and neither of us wants the taxman to know. Here is my Picasso. It is my gift to you." The Japanese building societies even use Renoirs to increase borrowing costs for houses. Upon the 1992 collapse of Itoman Trust of Osaka, it was found to own 6,100 Impressionists.

There will still be golden headlines for Van Gogh and Picasso in New York's great evening sales. But the mythical grandeur of the art market and the limitless supply of Old Masters and Classic Moderns will, sadly, never be seen again.

Word Count: 522
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10/5/97 San Diego Union & Trib. BOOKS7

1997 WL 14527622

(Publication page references are not available for this document.)

The San Diego Union-Tribune
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Sunday, October 5, 1997

BOOKS

WORD BALLOONS

These days, fantasy takes a violent turn down a dark alley

John Layman

john.layman@uniontrib.com

There was a time when reading a comic book meant reading about the good guys. In the multihued world of comics, the nobility of its heroes was the one absolute black and white.

This changed in the '70s Batman grew darker, became not just a caped o-gooder but a vigilante driven by psychosis. Anti-heroes such as Punisher and Wolverine appeared, and soon comic-book universes were populated with dozens, if not hundreds, of characters who strive to right wrongs but aren't necessarily good.

This notion has been taken to cold extremes in the '90s. Comics such as "Spawn," "Wetworks" and "The Darkness" -- and far too many others -- feature characters who are hit men and hired guns. Little regard is given to morality, ethics or consequences, and readers do not so much root for or empathize with the hero as watch in a dull stupor for the next round of bloodletting.

There are exceptions. One of the most clever concepts of the year is Marvel's "Thunderbolts," in which a supervillain team masquerades as heroes, and learns a thing or two about right and wrong in the process. Nothing makes for good drama like the examination of the blurred line between good and bad, and, right now, no comic book does this better than "Kane." "Kane" came to my attention courtesy of a Word Balloons reader who'd seen the August column on crime comics and thought I'd been criminally negligent not to mention it. "Kane" was referred to him by a friend; he'd picked it up and soon found it among his favorites. Based on his glowing recommendation, I did the same, and can now say the same. Created by Paul Grist and self-published by Dancing Elephant Press, "Kane" is not so much a crime comic as it is a cop comic. Each issue is like sitting through an episode of "NYPD Blue" or "Homicide: Life on the Streets." ("Kane" ranks several notches above "NYPD" and just a couple below "Homicide.")

While the focus of "Kane" is on its title character, a disgraced detective, the comic is really about

the men and women on the police force in the city of New Eden; the officer on the take and the rookie who's torn between following his footsteps and ratting him out to Internal Affairs; the gung-ho SWAT leader; the sergeant with a secret; and the cop who's willing to look the other way.

And then there's Kane, who's back on the force, universally reviled after killing his partner -- reviled to the point where his fellow officers replace Kane's bullets with blanks and slow their response when they know he's taking a beating. The only person watching Kane's back is his new female partner, Detective Felix -- and the last thing Kane wants is another partner.

The art is clean and simple with imaginative layouts, generous doses of comic relief and a rich story that adds a new layer of depth and complexity with every issue. Grist lets the back story unfold slowly, each issue zigging through time to tell the Kane's story, and the story leading to the final confrontation between Kane and his ex-partner. Though through the 17 issues of "Kane" the reader gets to know each member of the New Eden police force, Grist has kept the stony Kane mysterious, his motivations unclear and his allegiance uncertain.

"Kane" is a black-and-white comic, published bimonthly out of England (\$3.50), and back issues can be found at only a smattering of comic-book stores in San Diego. Two trade paperbacks are more easily available: "Greetings From New Eden" (\$11.95) collects the first four issues, and "Rabbit Hunt" (\$12.50) covers issues Nos. 5 through 8.

"Rabbit Hunt" also contains the best "Kane" story, the almost completely silent and ingeniously choreographed title story, in which a fugitive nut case , a street punk, a bank robber and a very harried cop cross paths with very funny results.

One final recommendation: It's best to start "Kane" at the very beginning of the series. Anyone who attempts to pick up an issue midway will find himself hopelessly lost.

Hallelujah

Imagine Quentin Tarantino and a young John Waters' raising the ghost of Sam Peckinpah to remake "Caligula" as a western, and you might have some idea what you're in for reading "Preacher."

In an age of amoral comics, "Preacher," published by DC's adult Vertigo imprint, stands above the others. Or perhaps more accurately, stoops lower. "Touched by an Angel" this ain't, and if the Southern Baptists knew that Time-Warner-owned DC was placing a book like "Preacher" on the racks, they'd forget about ol' Mouse Ears and set their sights on the funny books. Many comics might be labeled "for mature readers," or claim to be marketed toward them, but most are just same-old same-old, with nudity, profanity and violence -- and an adolescent mindset. But issue after issue, "Preacher" truly lives up to its warning tag. No bullet is fired without tearing off a limb or exposing bloody brain, few sentences are uttered without a four-letter word that begins with an "f" and no opportunity is wasted shocking the reader with some new outrage of sexual perversity or scatological excess.

"Preacher" is a shock comic for the unshockable. It's also, most shocking of all, Vertigo's most popular title, filling in the vacancy left by the elegant and sometimes highfalutin "Sandman." Do I need to mention it's blasphemous? "Preacher" tells the story of Texas preacher Jesse Custer, who, after an unholy coupling between angel and demon, inherits the "word of God." If Jesse tells someone to "go jump in a lake," that person jumps in a lake (although the things Jesse tells people are much more colorful, vicious and, of course, shocking). Jesse hangs around with Cassidy, an Irish vampire, and his girlfriend, Tulip. When they're not running into sickos that make the hillbillies from "Deliverance" look like people enjoying high tea with Miss Manners, they are searching for God, who apparently quit being God and went into hiding because he fears Jesse's powers.

"Preacher" is written by Garth Ennis, with art by Steve Dillon, and published monthly (\$2.50). Its third trade paperback, "Proud American," collecting issues Nos. 18 through 26, has just been released (\$14.95), and tells the story of Jesse's rescuing Cassidy from an ancient religious group known as The Grail. Centuries of inbreeding have given them an imbecile for a messiah.

Other trade paperbacks, "Gone to Texas" and "Until the End of the World," are available for \$14.95. ("End of the World" is particularly vile.) Like the other "Preacher" stories, the stories are well-written, and you keep turning the pages to find out what outrage Ennis will commit next, even if you may hate yourself for it.

"End of the World" is offensive on every level, but nothing disturbed me as much as when the Preacher was mean to a cat.

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---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

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The Atlanta Journal - The Atlanta Constitution

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Sunday, October 5, 1997

SPORTS

INSIDE THE NFL SUNDAY SPECIAL Rison reverses written-off status

Len Pasquarelli STAFF WRITER

As indelibly etched into public consciousness as the elaborate tattoo that is stenciled into his left upper arm, the "Bad Moon" persona hasn't exactly served Andre Rison well since departing Suwanee after the 1994 season.

And so with the Kansas City Chiefs, his fourth team in three years, Rison has adopted a new alias to go along with an old and prideful attitude.

Just call him "Spiderman." And oh, yeah, keep throwing the ball 'Dray's way. "Man, I like his physique, how slender his body looks, the way he moves . . . and the natural smoothness of him," Rison explained of his newfound affection for the longtime Marvel Comics character, whose webbed fingers and sure hands in real life certainly would merit Spiderman a tryout at wide receiver.

Given the first five games and a surprising 4-1 breakout for a club featuring six new offensive starters, Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer is saying some of those same things about the nomadic Rison. Relegated to the NFL scrap heap by Baltimore, Jacksonville and Green Bay in the past 17 months, the ninth-year veteran has resurrected his career in Kansas City.

The NFL's ninth-leading receiver with 25 catches for 385 yards and a pair of touchdowns, Rison, 30, is on track for his most productive year since exiting the Falcons as an unrestricted free agent in March '95. At his current pace, he would finish with 80 catches and 1,200-plus yards. Those numbers qualify as headline news in Kansas City, where the run-oriented Chiefs haven't had a wide receiver catch more than 60 balls or gain more than 1,000 yards since Stephone Paige in 1990.

In the 1995-96 seasons, Rison had an aggregate 94 receptions, 1,294 yards and six touchdowns while not garnering a single Pro Bowl vote. After fetching a landmark contract from the then-Cleveland Browns in '95 (the signing bonus was \$5 million), Rison had only 47 catches for 701 yards and three scores.

Conversely, he averaged 84.6 catches, 1,127 yards and 11.2 touchdowns in his five seasons with the Falcons and made four trips to Hawaii.

The only highlight of the past two years: Rison earned a Super Bowl ring last January, his 54-yard touchdown catch on Green Bay's second play from scrimmage burning cornerback Otis Smith and igniting the Packers' 35-21 win over the New England Patriots.

Even now, only six shy of the magic 600-catch milestone that has been reached by just 16 other receivers and typically assures a player some Hall of Fame consideration, the victory represents Rison's most meaningful career moment.

"People don't believe me when I say the (personal) numbers don't mean a thing without the ring," Rison said. "But the Super Bowl was the capper. A lot of guys put up numbers but never get that title 'champion' after their name. No matter what else happens, that will never be erased."

Three months after the Super Bowl, though, he was freed by a Packers team that could not afford his salary. The cut came days before a 30th birthday bash here, hosted by singer and longtime significant other Lisa Lopes.

"There was a (perception) that he was trouble and probably a lot of teams in the league wouldn't touch the guy just because of his reputation alone," said Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre a few weeks ago. "For a few months there, he probably felt like a leper or something. But he's not a bad guy and he can still make plays; (he's) just a great competitor. You knew Andre was too good for somebody not to take a chance on him."

That his sixth team would be the Chiefs ---a somewhat rigid franchise that has worked hard under the stewardship of owner Lamar Hunt to nurture the kind of staid reputation that plays well in the blue-collar Midwest ---was a bit of a surprise to many NFL observers.

In fact, the early money was on Oakland, where former Falcons vice president Ken Herock and quarterback Jeff George both urged Al Davis to sign Rison. But the Raiders boss had personally orchestrated the free agent signing of return specialist Desmond Howard, in part by promising the Super Bowl MVP playing time at wide receiver.

Frustrated by the lack of development and frequent injuries to young receivers Lake Dawson and Chris Penn, the Chiefs organization decided to gamble on Rison and former Detroit star wideout Brett Perriman.

With the latter, they rolled snake-eyes. But in Rison, who received a two-year deal worth \$1.8 million and featuring lucrative incentives, Schottenheimer and general manager Carl Peterson hit the jackpot, it seems.

Said Schottenheimer: "When we dug hard into his (background) and talked with people we trust around the league, we weren't turned off. Then when you meet Andre, you can't help but like him. . . . So far he's been a model citizen. On the field, he's been tremendous for us."

Miami safety Corey Harris, who will help double-team Rison today when Kansas City visits the Dolphins, noted last week that the crafty wideout is running crisper patterns this season but still catching everything near him and still looking for the backbreaking play. Chiefs cornerback Dale Carter, who works with Rison every day in practice, lauded his effortless grasp of some of the subtle skills that separate receivers.

"He's a guy with great street smarts and football sense, and it's obvious he is back doing the things that put him near the top of the list a few years ago," said Dolphins coach Jimmy Johnson.

The reemergence of Rison, ironically enough, came on the kind of ad-lib play for which he has been criticized. Trailing the Raiders 27-21, and with only 11 seconds remaining in the teams' Sept. 8 prime-time matchup, the Kansas City staff all but drew a play up in the dirt.

With three receivers to the right side and only him aligned on the left, Rison put a superb outside fake on Oakland cornerback Terry McDaniel, who had single coverage on the play. When McDaniel bit, Rison broke sharply back up the seam and hauled in Elvis Grbac's deftly-lobbed pass at the back of the end zone for the game-winning 33-yard touchdown.

That clutch grab, noted Grbac, not only signalled Rison's return to prominence but also galvanized his standing with the team. "He sealed himself," Grbac said, "as the go-to guy here. It was like he said, 'Hey, NFL, I'm back.' "

And reinforcing that notion, Rison will be the subject of a feature on today's ESPN pregame show. The segment will revolve around the Spiderman theme and Rison will address its appeal to young fans in the Kansas City community.

Last week, though, he allowed there also is an ulterior motive for his choice of superheroes, a decision that dates to his days here when he felt he wasn't mentioned frequently enough with the likes of Jerry Rice or Michael Irvin.

"Everybody had a chance at (signing) me and only one team stepped up," Rison said. "Now I'm getting my chance at the team who thought I was done."

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Sunday, October 5, 1997

COMMENTARY

BILL TAMMEUS

Indelible immortality can be yours too

BILL TAMMEUS

Bill Tammeus is a columnist for The Kansas City Star.

The relentless human search for immortality sometimes is breathtaking to watch.

In this category I now put the cremains (that's what folks in the funeral biz call cremated ashes) of Mark Gruenwald, a Marvel Comics editor who died of a heart attack last year at age 42.

In accordance with his wishes, his ashes have been mixed with ink and used to print a 12-part, one-volume comic series called "Squadron Supreme." "And now," says an Ohio comics dealer, "he'll be part of eternity."

Yeah, well, Hitler's atoms and molecules are part of eternity, too. We just don't know which part or where. Eternity isn't very discriminating.

As someone who daily traffics in the printed word, I have been thinking about what it might be like to throw myself into my work the way the late Mark Gruenwald got thrown into his. And although I've made no final decision about the matter, I'd certainly want to see a prototype of the product - whether it would be a newspaper, magazine, book or whatever - before I signed off on it and checked out of the world.

You can't be too careful about these things. Why, without good quality control, you might be mixed with ink used to print "poetry" by Rod McKuen, say, or "novels" by Robert James Waller. How embarrassing. Even if you could come back to life, you'd never live it down.

I suppose people in other fields could arrange for their ashes to be combined in some final way with their work too.

For instance, a guy who had spent his life putting fenders on Fords might get his

coworkers to mix his ashes with auto body paint. That way he could spend eternity rolling down I-35, say. Eternity, however, (besides not being discriminating, as we've noted) has a pretty short half-life when it comes to automobiles. So if it's eternity you seek, it's probably a good idea to make sure the car onto which you get painted is headed for a museum somewhere or for Havana, where cars are held together with baling wire forever.

Or a farmer, say, could be cremated and have his ashes buried in his corn field so that he would, in a fertilizer sense, eventually become part of what you pick up in the frozen vegetable section of the supermarket.

Corporate executives - to cite one more ridiculous example - might wish to have their ashes mixed with the ink used to print stock certificates of the companies they helped to create or, in some cases, loot. That way they could continue to be bought and sold, the way many of them were in life.

Sports figures present an entirely new opportunity for this sort of strangeness. I've heard golfers, for instance, say they wanted their ashes scattered down the middle of a fairway, where they seldom were in life.

That would be fine, I suppose. But truer immortality might be achieved by having their ashes mixed with the ink used to print score cards. Well, hold on. Would they want people lying on you throughout eternity?

So there are lots of options similar to the one adopted by Mark Gruenwald, if in fact you seek that sort of perpetuity for the charred remains of your body. But it might make sense to test this out before you commit to it fully.

One way might be to do what the rock 'n' roll band Kiss did in 1978. Each band member donated a vial of his blood, which then was mixed with ink to print a \$2.50 comic book. Today, it's reported, the volume sells for \$40.

As for me, I prefer long-term anonymity. I've decided to keep my blood now and, when I'm through with my body, have my ashes scattered either in my basement or my kids' rooms. Either place, no one would ever notice me.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

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Financial Times

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Saturday, October 4, 1997

Books

Childhood in black and white

By Nicholas Wroe

It has been said that most autobiography is actually about the time of writing, not the time recollected. It is also said that the curse of modern South African fiction has been too much politics.

With Boyhood, J.M. Coetzee reinforces the first point and uses it to neatly overcome the second. This is a fascinating glimpse into the making of a great writer, but it is also more than that. It pre-figures the massive political upheaval that was to come in his country, as well as subtly illuminating it. This is the sort of truth that fiction usually provides best, and befits a book with a subtitle so reminiscent to that of a novel which tangentially catalogues fundamental political change, Middlemarch.

Born in South Africa in 1940, J.M. Coetzee's mother was a teacher and his father a lawyer turned book-keeper. In the small, conservative town of Worcester, Coetzee was from the outset deeply concerned that his was, "an unnatural and shameful family in which not only are children not beaten, but older people are addressed by their first names and no-one goes to church and shoes are worn every day".

He blamed his mother, Dinny, for this -- "as his father is normal in every way" -- but while he affects resentment at her protectiveness, he was grateful for the shield she erected against such normality: "that is to say from his father's occasional blue-eyed rages and threats to beat him".

This sensitivity to what is and is not "normal" lies at the heart of the book. It is fuelled both by the profound abnormality of post-war South Africa, as well as by the tension generated by the differing models of adulthood offered by his parents.

Throughout his adolescence Coetzee was to painfully oscillate between adoration and resentment of his mother and empathy and disgust at his father. When his mother tried, and failed, to learn to ride a bike, "his father couldn't hide his glee". Coetzee uneasily acknowledged that while "he does not often gang up with his father against her: his whole inclination is to gang up

with her against his father. But in this case he belongs with the men". Likewise when the family discusses the recently ended second world war, he is surprised that his father, the one he least wants to win, is the one he agrees with. Siding with the men is important, and it is no accident that the book is called *Boyhood* as opposed to "Childhood", but for every apparently gender-specific memory (disappointment at the ordinariness of a test cricketer) there are other more neutral recollections (the death of a pet, for instance).

Most vividly recalled is the stultifying and buttoned-up mood of the times following Malan's 1948 election victory. This condemned the child to endless National Party speeches on the radio and the banning of Captain Marvel and Superman comics. His escape was to an almost mythical family farm, but there he found the conflicts and confusions were, if anything, even more immediate and pressing. Coetzee's poignant treatment of the farm, and indeed of the mother, in his Booker Prize- winning novel *Life and Times of Michael K*, are surely echoes of his childhood experiences. He knows he truly "belongs" on the farm, but is equally aware that it "will never belong to him". The actual reason is family history, but underlying it, inevitably, is the question of race.

He recalls many shameful injustices; the house-boy who had taught Coetzee to ride a bike being summarily dismissed, the black faces pressing against the ice-cream parlour window casting a damper on his birthday celebrations. But perhaps most affecting are the lower-level embarrassments of protocol; meeting a black servant alone in the house or the uncertain status of older black children. Are they man or boy?

J.M. Coetzee's novels have been prime examples of how beautifully truthful fiction can be. His habitual, strictly regulated prose has been a doggedly successful tool in unravelling the tangled mess of forces that animates characters and nations. His occasional bursts of expansive literary flood, all the more stunning for their rarity, have been boundlessly vivid in depicting what it is like to be alive.

It is therefore both gratifying and reassuring that Coetzee has chosen to so openly apply these same fictional skills in the creation of this delightful memoir. Written in the third person, *Boyhood* reads like a novel, yet the blatant exhibition of literary artifice proves a wonderfully appropriate vehicle for the delivery of an almost elemental level of veracity that is always enlightening and utterly engaging.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

NAMED PERSON: J M COETZEE

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Saturday, October 4, 1997

BAYLIFE

Viewers escape into fantasy world of weekend TV

WALT BELCHER
of The Tampa Tribune

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If it's the weekend, then it's time to buckle your swashes and escape into TV fantasy land.

Welcome to the cult world of sword-wielding heroes, ghastly ghosts, evil monsters, amazing aliens, muscle-bound men and buxom women.

Forget sports. The real action on Saturday and Sunday is found on syndicated series such as "Highlander."

The weekend is where we find TV's toughest guys - Hercules, Conan, Tarzan, Sinbad and Mike Hammer - and TV's toughest women: Xena: Warrior Princess and La Femme Nikita.

It is also where we find series with loyal cult followings such as "Babylon 5." And it is where we get chills and thrills from spook shows such as "The Outer Limits" and "Poltergeist: The Legacy."

This season, with new dramas seeking cult status, TV stations in the Tampa Bay area have more than 21 hours of escapist fare. That doesn't count cable shows such as "La Femme Nikita" and "Silk Stalkings" on USA and the WGN repeats of "Hercules" and "Xena."

Add off-network reruns such as "The X-Files," coming to Channel 13 next Saturday at 7 p.m., and a cult fan doesn't have to face reality from Friday night until Monday morning.

The success of the most popular cult hits - "Hercules," "Xena," "Deep Space Nine" and "Highlander" - have inspired a record number of syndicated dramas this year.

Among the newcomers:

A revival of Mickey Spillane's gritty detective "Mike Hammer," with Stacy Keach as the Los Angeles gumshoe. Midnight Sundays on WFLA, Channel 8.

"Police Academy: The Series," an action-comedy based on the popular movie series. 4 p.m. Saturdays on WTWT, Channel 13.

"Due South," a former CBS series about a Canadian Mountie (Paul Gross) working in Chicago. 1 p.m. Saturdays on WFLA, Channel 8.

"Pensacola: Wings of Gold," about a special military commando team lead by James Brolin. Noon Sundays on WFTS, Channel 28.

"NightMan," based on a Marvel Comics hero who is a jazz saxophone player and superhero (Matt McColm) with a high-tech arsenal that allows him to defy gravity and turn invisible. Sundays at 11 p.m. on WTOG, Channel 44 (Oct. 12).

And coming Oct. 11 to WTOG, Channel 44, is the much-anticipated "Gene Roddenberry's Earth: The Final Conflict." It's a new sci-fi thriller about strange aliens living among Earthlings in the future based on a Roddenberry idea from the 1970s.

"Final Conflict" will air at 8 p.m. Saturdays, displacing the lame duck series "Babylon 5," which moves to TNT in January. Until its departure, new "Babylon 5" episodes will air at midnight Oct. 12, 19 and 26 and Nov. 2.

Obviously, finding these programs can be a challenge because they are treated as fillers. They can get stuck in the pre-dawn hours because of a shortage of space or bounced around by sports coverage.

For example, super fantasy heroes "Hercules" and "Xena" kick off new seasons this weekend at midnight Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

But they also show up on Saturday and Sunday afternoons when there is no college football or basketball.

"Due South" is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturdays on WFLA, Channel 8, unless there is a college football game like today. This weekend, it airs at 2 a.m. Sunday.

This season, Channel 13 has scheduled "Highlander" for 5 p.m. Sundays unless there is a Fox NFL Sunday afternoon game. Then it moves to 1 a.m. Sundays.

This is frustrating to "Highlander" fans who have been calling WTWT and the Tribune to locate their fave series, which kicked off its sixth season last week.

"Highlander" is typical of the crop of fantasy series. It stars Adrian Paul as Duncan

MacLeod, a 400-year-old immortal. He fights supernatural evils in the modern world while wooing exotic women and trying not to lose his head (immortals can only be killed by beheading).

The series, inspired by a 1985 movie, has a huge worldwide following.

Dozens of Internet Web sites are devoted to "Highlander" information. Fans can even buy replicas of MacLeod's ponytail tieback. Yet, the series never shows up in the weekly Nielsens because it is not part of any broadcast network's prime time lineup.

"Highlander" is licensed (or syndicated) to TV stations by an independent program distributor. Because it's a proven hit, it gets a decent time slot as weekend series go.

The best weekend slots are 6 to 8 p.m. or midnight Saturdays. That's when most of the largely male cult audience is available.

"Highlander" fared better than the new "Ghost Stories," a chiller that is trying to compete in the spook genre.

It's stuck at 2 a.m. Saturdays on Channel 13 because the station had no other time slot.

But it still may survive, says Dave Boylan, general manager at WTWT. "These are niche programs that make money by reaching a worldwide audience," he says. "Some of these shows are bigger hits in Europe and other countries than they are in the United States."

"At 2 a.m., a series can get a 1 or 2 rating, which is enough to get by," says Steve Gleason, director of programming for Media General Broadcast Group.

Many of the syndicated programs are produced with foreign investors and are filmed in other countries where labor is less expensive.

"Highlander" is produced in Vancouver and France. "Hercules" and "Xena" are filmed in New Zealand.

These syndicated shows are "bartered" to TV stations.

Instead of paying a fee for the shows, TV stations may get up to six minutes of commercial time to sell during each show. The producing company makes its profits from selling the remainder of the commercial time.

If a series becomes successful, such as "Hercules" and "Xena," the producers start keeping more commercial time for themselves.

(CHART) Cult TV series

"Xena: Warrior Princess" - midnight Sundays, Channel 10

"Hercules: The Legendary Journeys" - midnight Saturdays, Channel 10

"Deep Space Nine" - 9 p.m. Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays, Channel 44

"Babylon Five" - midnight Saturdays, Channel 44 (Oct. 12)

"Earth: The Final Conflict" - 8 p.m. Saturdays, Channel 44 (begins Oct. 11)

"Highlander" - 5 p.m. or 1 a.m. Sundays, Channel 13

"Fame L.A." - 3 p.m. Saturdays, Channel 13

"The Adventures of Sinbad" - 5 p.m. Saturdays and 1 p.m. Sundays,
Channel 32

"Due South" - 1 p.m. Saturdays and 2 a.m. Sundays, Channel 8

"Conan" - 6 p.m. Saturdays, Channel 32

"Mike Hammer" - midnight Sundays, Channel 8

"Tarzan" - 6 p.m. and 3 a.m. Saturdays, Channel 38

"Soldier of Fortune" - 11 p.m. Saturdays, Channel 32

"Pensacola: Wings of Gold" - noon Sundays, Channel 28

"Ghost Stories" - 2 a.m. Saturdays, Channel 13

"The Outer Limits" - 5 p.m. Saturdays, Channel 13

"Tales From the Crypt" - midnight Saturdays, Channel 13

"FX: The Series" - 3 p.m. Saturdays and midnight Sundays, Channel 32

"Poltergeist" - midnight and 4 a.m. Sundays

"Police Academy: The Series" - 4 p.m. Saturdays, Channel 13

"NightMan" - 11 p.m. Sundays, Channel 44

Schedules are subject to change because of sports programming

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PHOTO (2C) CHART; Caption: (C) Paul Gross plays a Canadian Mountie working in Chicago in "Due South." The show airs at 1 p.m. Saturdays on WFLA, Channel 8. Photo from Polygram Television; (C) Adrian Paul stars as Duncan MacLeod, a 400- year-old immortal who fights supernatural evils, in "Highlander."

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Thursday, October 2, 1997

Power Play: Japanese Cartoons Help U.S. Producer Dominate Kids' TV

Haim Saban Builds Empire With the Power Rangers And Savvy Deal-Making

Capt. Kangaroo Won't Jump
By John Lippman
Staff Reporter

LOS ANGELES -- Haim Saban calls himself "just a cartoon schlepper." But he is fast becoming the Walt Disney of the 1990s.

While most parents have never heard of him, it's a good bet their kids watch his shows, whether it's "Power Rangers TURBO," "Saban's Samurai Pizza Cats," "Saban's BeetleBorgs Metallix" or "Ninja Turtles: The Next Mutation."

Mr. Saban's child-riveting spectacles typically feature futuristic superheroes or rough-hewn versions of Marvel Comics' musclemen. Their popularity has made Saban Entertainment Inc.-launched 17 years ago with the rights to a handful of schlocky Japanese cartoons-one of the most prolific suppliers of children's programming in the world.

And though he doesn't get much respect from the Hollywood establishment, Mr. Saban is giving behemoths like Walt Disney Co. and Time Warner Inc. a run for their money.

Mr. Saban's stock in trade is recycling cheaply made foreign shows, remaking them or dubbing them in English and coming up with catchy images that kids lap up. "They're cool," reports 11-year-old Kimberly Goodman, a Power Rangers fan, who likes "the fact they have different colors and powers and stuff." Her younger brother, Alexander, 8, prefers "BeetleBorgs" because he likes Flabber, a clumsy ghost with a jaw line that bears an eerie resemblance to comedian Jay Leno's.

Such preteen testimonials help explain why Mr. Saban produces 21% of all children's TV programming in the U.S., ranking ahead of Disney (18%) and second only to Warner Bros.

(26%). By his company's estimate, about 18.4 million children watch its programs each week.

That number is about to grow. Last year, Mr. Saban and Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. formed Fox Kids Worldwide Inc., a joint venture between all of Mr. Saban's company and News Corp.'s Fox Kids Network. The venture, which is run by Mr. Saban, recently bought Pat Robertson's International Family Entertainment Inc., with its Family Channel, for \$1.9 billion. The channel reaches 69 million cable homes and will become a major outlet for the venture's programming.

The Israeli-born Mr. Saban, whose conversations tend to be colorful, says, "We're big machers now," using the Yiddish word for doers. He estimates his 50% share in Fox Kids Worldwide is worth \$1.5 billion.

The ubiquitous Power Rangers is the linchpin of Mr. Saban's empire, headquartered in a new building on Wilshire Boulevard emblazoned with the name Saban Plaza. The program -- still the most-watched children's show on TV -- last year accounted for 44% of Fox Kids Worldwide's \$327 million in revenue. Power Rangers toys have been the top-selling action-figure line for the past three years -- a \$750 million sales run, "tough for even me to understand," says Paul Nojama, chief executive of Bandai America, the toys' licensee and a unit of Japan's Bandai Co.

Mr. Saban is steadily plowing these profits into expanding his library of characters, buying rights to resurrect old favorites like Captain Kangaroo, Casper the Friendly Ghost and Richie Rich. "These are American icons," he says. "Our company never had these before."

For all his success, Mr. Saban's particular brand of programming has some champions of quality children's fare up in arms. Mothers like preschool teacher Kathy Rudman of Hanover, N.H., who prohibits her three kids from watching Saban shows, dislike their violence. "It's important to find other ways to settle conflicts," she says.

Critics say the programs have neither the educational value nor the sharp humor or clever word play of many classic cartoons. "His sensibility is action or dumb humor," says children's programming advocate Peggy Charren. "How can you equate 'X-Men' with Wyle E. Coyote?"

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The two moved to Los Angeles, where Mr. Saban soon bought a home in Beverly Hills and a Rolls-Royce sporting vanity plates that read "1 RSK TKR." Setting up a small studio in the San Fernando Valley, Mr. Saban and Mr. Levy decided to turn their composing talents to the American market. Mr. Levy says they gave soundtracks to cartoon producers free of charge, but kept the publishing and performing rights. After producing themes for dozens of series, the duo sold the catalog's publishing rights to Time Warner's Warner Chappel Music for \$15 million. They retained performing rights, however, and today rank among such top royalty earners as Paul McCartney and Frank Sinatra.

The two used the money from the sale to buy "hundreds of Japanese cartoons, stuff nobody'd ever heard of." In 1985, they sold their own live-action/animation series, "Kidd Video," to General Electric Co.'s NBC. That was quickly followed by deals for animated versions of the series "ALF" and "The New Archies."

Mr. Saban continues to take on projects spurned by the large studios. For example, Universal Studios had a hit with the 1995 movie "Casper," produced by Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, with a world-wide gross of more than \$307 million. Harvey Entertainment Co., 10% owned by Seagram Co.'s Universal, retained rights to make any direct-to-video sequel.

Universal agreed to pay Harvey \$3 million for the rights to release a direct-to-video sequel but wouldn't commit to a release date, which worried Harvey Chief Executive Jeffrey A. Montgomery. After unsuccessfully shopping the rights around to major studios, he approached Mr. Saban, who offered \$3.3 million for the rights, plus \$7 million to produce the film and \$10 million for advertising and promotion.

"Haim understood the value of this franchise," Mr. Montgomery says. The video, "Casper, A Spirited Beginning," was just released by News Corp.'s Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, and Mr. Saban expects to sell 10 million units, which even at a discount from its \$19.98 price tag, could generate more than \$100 million in sales.

After the phenomenal success of Power Rangers, Ms. Loesch of Fox pushed the idea of a Fox and Saban joint venture, arguing that such a deal would give News Corp. a leg up in the global children's programming business. Last fall, the combined company told the Securities and Exchange Commission it planned to raise \$150 million in an initial public offering. Those plans were put on the back burner when News Corp. and Saban decided to buy Family Channel's parent, but they may be revived to raise expansion funds.

Mr. Saban's success in parlaying "Power Rangers" into an entertainment empire with classics like Captain Kangaroo is "like Joe Kennedy taking dollars from bootleg liquor and putting

it into U.S. Steel," says Harvey's Mr. Montgomery. "Now he's with the big boys," he adds, "which is what he's always wanted."

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Thursday, October 2, 1997

ARTS & LIVING

ON COMICS

ARCHIE, JUG & CO. FACE UNIFORMS AT SCHOOL

Mike Sangiacomo

Will Riverdale High School force Archie, Jughead, Betty and Veronica, and the rest of its students to abandon their individuality and wear uniforms?

Probably not, but not before the debate is thrashed out in a three-issue treatment in the Archie line of comics beginning Oct. 17. Archie has been in high school since the mid-1940s (talk about a lack of student achievement!) and for most of that time he wore his own "uniform." It consisted of a pair of plaid pants, a white shirt with a sweater vest bearing a big "R" for Riverdale. His pal Jughead wore some kind of Maynard G. Krebs dark pants and T-shirt with a goofy spiked hat.

In the 100th issue of "Jughead," Archie's individuality is tested when school officials debate imposing a school uniform policy. The story continues into "Archie" No. 467 (on sale Oct. 24) and "Betty" No. 57 (on sale Oct. 31), where it is resolved.

Sabrina the Teenage Witch and Josie and the Pussycats somehow get shoehorned into the story.

The uniform issue heats up when Archie and Betty realize that if everyone wears the same outfit, the two of them can compete with wealthy fashion plates like Veronica and Reggie. For years, the snob Veronica has been lording her wealth over everyone else at the school, and maybe it's about time to bring the nouveau riche capitalist clotheshorse down.

As Marvel Comics goes through the throes of financial ruin and rescue, depending on whose version you read, the infusion of writing and art talent planned for the end of the year is long overdue.

In fact, Marvel had better get its editorial act together soon before there is nothing left to

salvage.

The quality gap between DC and Marvel gets larger each month as DC consistently produces intriguing, powerfully written and beautifully drawn comics while Marvel sputters along with more misses than hits.

The best at Marvel these days are "Thunderbolts" and "The Hulk." The T-bolts are villains posing as good guys and the Hulk is a very complicated guy these days. But as good as they are, they don't come close in quality to DC's, "JLA," "Starman," "Spectre," the edgy "Resurrection Man" and about half of the Batman titles.

Next on Marvel's quality ladder are the Spider-Man titles. These are generally well-written and drawn and are the only place where the characters, like the obit writer at the Daily Bugle, poke fun at the tendency of dead characters to return to life.

"I have almost a dozen file cabinets stuffed with stories which I filed and then had to retract," bemoans the obit writer after learning that Dr. Octopus was back from Club Dead. "Spider-Man, Daredevil, the Hulk, they've all been reported killed. And don't get me started on the X-Men."

Very good stuff, just the right mixture of adventure and Angst, with some occasional silliness. It's on a par with DC's "Superman" family of comics and the other half of the Batman books, but not as good as DC's second strata of stars like "The Flash," "Green Lantern" and "Aquaman."

The biggest victims at Marvel these days are the X-Men books. What happened here? What are these terrible artists and writers doing on Marvel's biggest-selling comics - besides destroying them?

Is there anything left of the X-Men of old, the group that people fell in love with? I sure don't see much of that old magic anymore. And can anyone explain how Husk, of Generation X, manages to peel off her skin for a new power without first taking off her clothes?

The return of the Avengers, the Fantastic Four, Captain America and Iron Man can't come soon enough for me.

Let's talk about the new titles at Marvel designed to lend some hope. "Deadpool," I don't get. Besides the art, which I really hate, I find the stories unreadable and depressing. Marvel is striving for a version of DC's "Hitman" and coming up with "Lobo."

"Alpha Flight" might turn out to be decent; it's too soon to tell. Likewise for "Heroes for Hire."

"Elektra" should be killed again, for good this time, and "What If" should be called "Who Cares?" The new "Quicksilver" series is one of the worst drawn and written debuts I've seen in years. It reads like it was written and drawn by a 12-year-old.

Not that DC doesn't have its dogs. The entire Helix line is pretty much unreadable. John Byrne can tinker with "Wonder Woman" all he wants and it still comes out dull. Chris Claremont is living in a fool's paradise if he thinks that "Sovereign Seven" is anything but cannon fodder.

I wish Marvel a speedy recovery. In the meantime, DC comics remain at the top of my reading list.

TABULAR OR GRAPHIC MATERIAL SET FORTH IN THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT DISPLAYABLE

PHOTO: ARCHIE COMICS The Archie gang is divided over whether students at Riverdale High School should be issued uniforms. The story line will cross over into this month's issues of "Jughead," "Archie" and "Betty."

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Wednesday, October 1, 1997

ARTS

Hero of the comic strip

By James Hall

Roy Lichtenstein, who died on Monday at the age of 73, was not only one of the leading American pop artists, he was also one of the most misunderstood. His best known paintings were based on images found in comic strips, but it is still frequently assumed that the only change he made was to increase their scale. Few people -- even those familiar with Lichtenstein's work -- realised just how radically and intelligently he transformed his source material.

Lichtenstein's youth was spent in Ohio. He graduated from art school in 1949, and taught art in Cleveland Ohio until 1957, then moved to teach in New York State and New Jersey universities. The latter appointment was crucial because he met Allen Kaprow, who took him to Happenings and introduced him to artists such as Claes Oldenburg and Jim Dine.

In the late 1950s Lichtenstein had started to introduce vernacular imagery into paintings that were otherwise Abstract Expressionist in style, but his real breakthrough came in 1961 when he made his first comic-strip paintings, "Popeye" and "Look Mickey", and images based on advertisements such as "Girl With Ball". In terms of themes, "Girl With Ball" was to prove more influential. Lichtenstein's mature work always features anonymous protagonists.

Lichtenstein's source material is always simplified, abstracted and intensified. In two images showing the heads of tearful women from 1963, "Drowning Girl" and "Hopeless", both images are cropped to bring the head right to the front of the picture plane. The smudged, muddy colours of the original are purified. The letters in the speech bubbles are made more robust, less slanted. The black contour lines become broader and more elastic. Lichtenstein's most notorious feature -- the representation of individual Ben Day dots, always painted by hand -- is not even visible in the original, where the dots merge.

Lichtenstein was an instant commercial and critical success from his first exhibition at Leo Castelli in New York in 1962. Elements of Lichtenstein's style even fed back into comic strips themselves. His influence is discernible in Marvel comics of the 1960s. They started to cut down on realistic detail, they emphasised undulating black curves, and they even used irony.

After 1965, Lichtenstein's career lost direction and he never recaptured the deadpan intensity of his early work. He increasingly started to pastiche earlier styles of art -- from Fauvism and Abstract Expressionism to Cubism and Futurism -- by giving them the Ben Day dot and clean contour treatment. He also adapted the same technique to sculpture and murals.

At his best, though, Lichtenstein was one of the most accomplished and distinctive artists of the century. His most ambitious and successful works were a series of paintings dealing with aerial dogfights. In "Whaam" (1963), which is owned by the Tate Gallery, the explosion which engulfed an enemy plane is as brilliantly orchestrated as the tangle of snakes that surrounds Laocoön in the famous classical sculpture. Indeed, in many respects the coolness and clarity of Lichtenstein's work can be seen as a form of neo-classicism.

James Hall

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Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Hai-Ya! Haim Saban Morphs Into a Major Player In Kids' Entertainment

Cheap Japanese Cartoons And the Power Rangers Have Made Him Rich

Captain Kangaroo Is Appalled
By John Lippman
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

LOS ANGELES -- Haim Saban calls himself "just a cartoon schlepper." But he is fast becoming the Walt Disney of the 1990s.

While most parents have never heard of him, it's a good bet their kids watch his shows, whether it's "Power Rangers TURBO," "Saban's Samurai Pizza Cats," "Saban's BeetleBorgs Metallix" or "Ninja Turtles: The Next Mutation."

Mr. Saban's child-riveting spectacles typically feature futuristic superheroes or rough-hewn versions of Marvel Comics' musclemen. Their popularity has made Saban Entertainment Inc. -- launched 17 years ago with the rights to a handful of schlocky Japanese cartoons -- one of the most prolific suppliers of children's programming in the world.

And though he doesn't get much respect from the Hollywood establishment, Mr. Saban is giving behemoths like Walt Disney Co. and Time Warner Inc. a run for their money.

Mr. Saban's stock in trade is recycling cheaply made foreign shows, remaking them or dubbing them in English and coming up with catchy images that kids lap up. "They're cool," reports 11-year-old Kimberly Goodman, a Power Rangers fan, who likes "the fact they have different colors and powers and stuff." Her younger brother, Alexander, 8, prefers "BeetleBorgs" because he likes Flabber, a clumsy ghost with a jaw line that bears an eerie resemblance to comedian Jay Leno's.

Such preteen testimonials help explain why Mr. Saban produces 21% of all children's TV programming in the U.S., ranking ahead of Disney (18%) and second only to Warner Bros.

(26%). By his company's estimate, about 18.4 million children watch its programs each week.

That number is about to grow. Last year, Mr. Saban and Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. formed Fox Kids Worldwide Inc., a joint venture between all of Mr. Saban's company and News Corp.'s Fox Kids Network. The venture, which is run by Mr. Saban, recently bought Pat Robertson's International Family Entertainment Inc., with its Family Channel, for \$1.9 billion. The channel reaches 69 million cable homes and will become a major outlet for the venture's programming.

The Israeli-born Mr. Saban, whose conversations tend to be colorful, says, "We're big machers now," using the Yiddish word for doers. He estimates his 50% share in Fox Kids Worldwide is worth \$1.5 billion.

The ubiquitous Power Rangers is the linchpin of Mr. Saban's empire, headquartered in a new building on Wilshire Boulevard emblazoned with the name Saban Plaza. The program -- still the most-watched children's show on TV -- last year accounted for 44% of Fox Kids Worldwide's \$327 million in revenue. Power Rangers toys have been the top-selling action-figure line for the past three years -- a \$750 million sales run, "tough for even me to understand," says Paul Nojama, chief executive of Bandai America, the toys' licensee and a unit of Japan's Bandai Co.

Mr. Saban is steadily plowing these profits into expanding his library of characters, buying rights to resurrect old favorites like Captain Kangaroo, Casper the Friendly Ghost and Richie Rich. "These are American icons," he says. "Our company never had these before."

For all his success, Mr. Saban's particular brand of programming has some champions of quality children's fare up in arms. Mothers like preschool teacher Kathy Rudman of Hanover, N.H., who prohibits her three kids from watching Saban shows, dislike their violence. "It's important to find other ways to settle conflicts," she says.

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Little Noam's rendition of the Goldorak song proceeded to sell 3.5 million copies -- and he was promptly dubbed "the Israeli-French Donny Osmond."

This singular success brought invitations for Mr. Saban and Mr. Levy to adapt the music on French television for such U.S. imports as "Dallas," "Dynasty" and "Knots Landing." Saban Records released the soundtracks, which quickly topped the charts. After 15 albums, Saban and Levy wound the operation down. "We saturated the market with this stuff," Mr. Saban says. "The novelty wore off."

The two moved to Los Angeles, where Mr. Saban soon bought a home in Beverly Hills and a Rolls-Royce sporting vanity plates that read "1 RSK TKR." Setting up a small studio in the San Fernando Valley, Mr. Saban and Mr. Levy decided to turn their composing talents to the American market. Mr. Levy says they gave soundtracks to cartoon producers free of charge, but kept the publishing and performing rights. After producing themes for dozens of series, the duo sold the catalog's publishing rights to Time Warner's Warner Chappel Music for \$15 million. They retained performing rights, however, and today rank among such top royalty earners as Paul McCartney and Frank Sinatra.

The two used the money from the sale to buy "hundreds of Japanese cartoons, stuff nobody'd ever heard of." In 1985, they sold their own live-action/animation series, "Kidd Video," to General Electric Co.'s NBC. That was quickly followed by deals for animated versions of the series "ALF" and "The New Archies."

Mr. Saban continues to take on projects spurned by the large studios. For example, Universal Studios had a hit with the 1995 movie "Casper," produced by Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, with a world-wide gross of more than \$307 million. Harvey Entertainment Co., 10% owned by Seagram Co.'s Universal, retained rights to make any direct-to-video sequel.

Universal agreed to pay Harvey \$3 million for the rights to release a direct-to-video sequel but wouldn't commit to a release date, which worried Harvey Chief Executive Jeffrey A. Montgomery. After unsuccessfully shopping the rights around to major studios, he approached Mr. Saban, who offered \$3.3 million for the rights, plus \$7 million to produce the film and \$10 million for advertising and promotion.

"Haim understood the value of this franchise," Mr. Montgomery says. The video, "Casper, A Spirited Beginning," was just released by News Corp.'s Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment, and Mr. Saban expects to sell 10 million units, which even at a discount from its \$19.98 price tag, could generate more than \$100 million in sales.

After the phenomenal success of Power Rangers, Ms. Loesch of Fox pushed the idea of a Fox and Saban joint venture, arguing that such a deal would give News Corp. a leg up in the global children's programming business. Last fall, the combined company told the Securities and Exchange Commission it planned to raise \$150 million in an initial public offering. Those plans were put on the back burner when News Corp. and Saban decided to buy Family Channel's parent, but they may be revived to raise expansion funds.

Mr. Saban's success in parlaying "Power Rangers" into an entertainment empire with classics like Captain Kangaroo is "like Joe Kennedy taking dollars from bootleg liquor and putting

it into U.S. Steel," says Harvey's Mr. Montgomery. "Now he's with the big boys," he adds, "which is what he's always wanted."

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

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NEWS SUBJECT: Arts & Entertainment; Biography; Newspapers' Section Fronts; Front-Page Stories; Corporate Profiles; World Equity Index (ART BIO FRT PAG PRO WEI)

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Buffalo News
Copyright 1997

Tuesday, September 30, 1997

NEXT

SHORT TAKES

UH, DRUG-FREE ZONES?

More teens have seen drug deals at school than in their neighborhood, a new survey says. Want the scary statistics? The survey, conducted for the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, found this: 41 percent of high schoolers and 18 percent of middle schoolers had witnessed drug deals on school grounds.

Compare that with the 25 percent of high schoolers and 12 percent of middle schoolers who had seen drug deals in their neighborhoods.

Also, one-fourth of high school students said a kid in their school had died from an alcohol- or drug-related incident in the past year.

THIS IS ONLY A TEST

Chelsea Clinton's dad, the president, is pushing for fourth- through eighth-graders to have national tests. He says schoolkids should have to meet set standards before they can advance. He wants fourth-graders across the United States to be tested in reading and eighth-graders in math. Opponents say the government shouldn't butt in on school business like that.

HOME, SWEET HOME

If any of you sports stars make the 2004 Olympic team, you'll be going to Greece! The Greek city of Athens has been awarded those Summer Games, sending the Games back to their birthplace.

HE'S IN THE BOOK

The recently published comic book "Squadron Supreme" reportedly contains the ashes of late Marvel Comics editor Mark Gruenwald. Before his death of a heart attack last year, he asked

that his ashes be blended with ink and turned into a book.

-- Knight-Ridder

TABULAR OR GRAPHIC MATERIAL SET FORTH IN THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT
DISPLAYABLE

Chris Rock

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

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Barron's

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Monday, September 29, 1997

Mutual Funds

Mutual Bonds

Taking Stock Of Bonds

A fund succeeds with an offbeat approach

By Thomas D. Lauricella

As head of the small team that manages the Summit High Yield fund, Steven Sutermeister views the junk-bond market with a stockpicker's eye.

Putting aside bets on the direction of interest rates, Sutermeister plays the high-yield market much the way a value investor approaches stocks: He scours Wall Street's nooks and crannies for companies that are going to build their balance sheets and attract other investors faster than their peers.

Like many stock-fund managers, Sutermeister meets with company management and keeps in touch with equity analysts. "We really try to come away from a meeting with four or five elements of their business strategy," Sutermeister says. "We're curious about the quality of earnings, cash flows. We want to know how the executives know they're doing a good job."

Economic fundamentals aren't completely ignored at the three-year-old Summit fund. Sutermeister simply treats them as he would any other element of his bottom-up strategy. With Crown Paper debt, for example, he made sure he picked up the bonds at the right point in the industry's cycle.

As for market technicals, narrow spreads between corporate debt and government securities haven't deterred Sutermeister much. Again, it just becomes part of his broader strategy. "It does have an impact. There's no question about it," Sutermeister says. "But we just have to look further under the rocks to find the stories."

While adopting a stockpicker's tack may seem to be an unusual way for a bond veteran to navigate his market, it's certainly working. Summit's returns over the past three years have beaten those of better-known names, such as the Fidelity Spartan High Income and Pimco High Yield funds.

A good example of his strategy: Last year, as the problems at Marvel Comics threatened to turn Ronald Perelman's Midas touch into a fatal caress, the market hammered bonds linked to the financier, including debt issued by Coleman and Revlon.

The bond market was worried that the stock on which both Revlon and Coleman's debt was based could collapse, leaving them unable to pay off.

But Sutermeister saw things differently. With Revlon, he focused on rising cash flows at a number of the company's operating subsidiaries. At Coleman, there were added concerns about the firm's overseas operations, but Sutermeister felt the underlying stock would provide enough collateralization for the bonds.

He was right. After snapping up the bonds at bargain-basement prices, he turned a tidy profit when both companies refinanced their debt. Last year, during the week before Christmas, Sutermeister grabbed the Revlon bonds at a price of 85 and a yield slightly over 13%. In March, the company announced its refinancing and, shortly after, he sold Revlon at 94 and a yield of 7%. As for Coleman, Summit picked up its bonds as they were yielding 12% and were priced around 83. The bonds were called in July at a price just above 93.

With 20 years of experience, Sutermeister has been in the bond market longer than many fund managers have had their driving licenses. In 1977, his first job out of college was selling bonds at Salomon Brothers, where he had his hands in all corners of the market -- governments, corporates and, as the market grew, high-yield paper.

Seven years ago this month, after a three-year stint at Washington Square Capital, Sutermeister headed to Carillon Advisers. At Carillon, based in Cincinnati, about an hour from where he grew up, Sutermeister turned from selling bonds to investing in them.

After beefing up the firm's fixed-income department, Sutermeister convinced his bosses at Carillon, whose parent company is Ohio-based Union Central Life, that he could do a bang-up job running a mutual fund. So far, he's been right.

Lipper Analytical Services ranks Summit as the top high-yield fund since its inception in June 1994. Summit has generated more than a 17% annualized return over the past three years, leaving its rivals in the dust. Its closest competitor is Fidelity Spartan, up 15.37%. The average high-yield fund, meanwhile, is up 11.91% since June 1994. And Summit's high returns haven't been accompanied by much volatility. In 1995, its first full year of operation, it jumped 19.4%, while the typical junk fund returned less than 17%. In 1996, Summit rang up a 22.6% return, while its typical peer gained under 14%.

Sutermeister attributes some of the fund's success to its small size. At about \$42 million in assets, it's nimbler and more focused than its multibillion-dollar competitors. "If we decide we don't like something we own, it's easy to make the change," he observes.

In fact, Sutermeister says, half in jest, that if the fund has one failing, it's that "we haven't been great marketers. We spend all our time looking at credits." That may change, however. Summit has linked up with both Charles Schwab's OneSource and Jack White & Co.'s No-Fee fund supermarkets. Summit usually imposes an initial 4.5% sales charge, but it will be available as a no-load through Schwab and White.

Summit's portfolio reflects other elements of the strategy that have produced market-beating returns. For one thing, it's concentrated. Sutermeister owns about 40 different bonds, while according to Morningstar, the average high-yield fund holds more than 150.

The relatively small number of holdings means the typical bond in Summit's portfolio makes up 2% or 3% of the fund. While that increases risk, Sutermeister aims to get a bigger bang for his buck. The slim portfolio, coupled with the fund's tendency to hold almost no cash, also means that if he wants to add a holding, he's got to be ready to sell something else.

Summit also owns more lower-rated bonds than the typical high-yield bond fund. About 90% of the fund is invested in bonds rated by agencies as single-B, with the rest mostly carrying a double-B rating. According to Morningstar, the average high-yield fund has roughly 60% of its portfolio in single-B debt.

But Sutermeister says overweighting in single-B debt is more accident than design. "We're trying to uncover solid credit stories and they may be single-B bonds or they may be double-B bonds," he says.

Currently, Sutermeister is focusing on "communicopia" bonds -- those issued by companies involved in the telecommunications and media businesses. Among his holdings are Nextel Communications, rural telephone company Dobson Communications and the Mexican television concern, TV Azteca. One of his favorites is Talton Holdings, which specializes in prison phone systems.

Looking ahead, the fund manager sees possible opportunities in down-and-out names such as Pathmark, Grand Union and Penn Traffic. "We're just looking for a good story," Sutermeister says. Obviously, he's already found more than a few.

-- THOMAS D. LAURICELLA is a reporter with the Dow Jones Money Management Alert newswire.

--- FUND SCOPE

Webbed Feat

-- The explosion of offerings on the World Wide Web includes more than a few sites for

fund fans to assess the portfolios and managers they love. One is InvestorSquare, which lets you screen and rank 9,500 mutual funds according to 50 variables. (You could, for example, look to see which big-cap funds most closely resemble the S&P 500, and how high their expense ratios can get.) Then there are new features from existing sites, including appraisals of the new Taxpayer Relief Act and Roth IRA. (Check out Vanguard, at www.vanguard.com, and T. Rowe Price, at www.troweprice.com.) Following is a list of some other new or improved sites.

-- Leslie P. Norton

1. InvestorSquare www.investorsquare.com

See above. In addition to 9,500 funds, offers access to 12,000 stocks, 300 indexes, and 3,500 variable annuities, all updated daily.

2. Internet Closed-End Fund Investor www.icefi.com

Includes history, intraweek NAV estimates, daily rankings on 500 U.S.-traded closed-ends. Best feature is a lively discussion group that includes activists and long-term investors alike.

3. Cognos www.cognos.com/fund

Using information from Quote.com and Lipper Analytical Services, lets you screen and analyze 5,000 U.S. mutual funds. Easy screens include equity funds with the lowest fees and loads.

4. AMG Data Services www.amgdata.com

Includes the fund flow data you see in Cash Track, and updates on various cash flow trends.

5. Mutual Fund Cafe www.mfcafe.com

For true fund junkies. Which fund families are collecting the most dough? Other fare: A chat with Ted Bauer about why AIM merged with Invesco.

6. Investor Home www.investorhome.com

Includes quizzes on investing, sample questions from the Chartered Financial Analysts Exam, stock and fund info, links. Bill Sharpe likes this site.

7. Mutual Fund Channel www.mutual-fundchannel.com

Free personalized daily updates on the performance of 5,800 funds.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY (TICKER): Television Azteca S.A. de C.V.; GRAND UNION CO.; Merrill Lynch & Co.; Nextel Communications Inc.; PENN TRAFFIC CO.; Dobson Communications Corp.; PATHMARK STORES INC.; Talton Holdings Inc. (E.AZC GUCO MER NXTL PNF X.DOB X.PMK X.TAL)

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Monday, September 29, 1997

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Disney World's new "Wow!" The sleepy, waterfront village refuge from the rest of the park is gone. Disney Downtown's West Side cooks up hip happenings for

Mickey, Minnie and fans.

Tom Jackson
of The Tampa Tribune

LAKE BUENA VISTA - It's the dinner hour, and as shadows lengthen along the main street of Walt Disney World's newest attraction, so do the lines of hungry visitors awaiting tables for the strip's three celebrity-encrusted restaurants.

But what delights eatery owners defies demographics: The lengths of the queues is exceeded only by their diversity.

Teens in black slouch beside young parents restraining tots who'd otherwise be running circles around seniors thumbing tourist guidebooks. Their conversations paint a global rainbow of ethnic origins. Nonetheless, besides their growling stomachs, these mismatched groups also are unified by shopping bags at their sides, and a weakness for Disney's siren call.

The West Side - the spanking-new, \$150 million end of Downtown Disney, a repackaging that includes the old Village Marketplace and Pleasure Island - is too new to exclude curiosity as a significant factor contributing to its bustling streets. But early returns suggest that, once again, Disney has built it and they are coming.

"I'm a pop culture pig," says Christos Garkinos, Virgin Megastores' marketing vice president, "and I'm in heaven."

No one expects tourists to come just to visit Downtown Disney. But Downtown Disney Vice President Karl Holz does expect the concentration of shopping, dining and entertainment to lure neighbors - from one coast of Florida to the other - out of their homes for what could amount to daylong excursions.

Garkinos utters his endorsement from the ground floor of the largest record store in the

Southeast, but his reference extends a quarter mile in every direction, encompassing a riotous collision of neon signs and architectural adventurism. This first phase, open only three weeks, is the thin edge of trendiness.

"Our guests are so much more sophisticated now; they expect more of Disney," says Holz. "They expect us to 'wow' them. We think the West Side delivers."

Only steps away from Virgin's front doors is a collection of eclectic retailers, Florida's largest AMC theater plaza and a combination juice bar/coffee house.

Constituting the heart of the West Side are three restaurants of the stars, the largest gathering of celebrity diners anywhere:

Wolfgang Puck Cafe serves the famed chef's California cuisine (think: goat cheese, salmon pizza), plus East Coast specialties. There's also a sushi bar overseen by Puck pal Manago Kikuchi, imported from Spago's/Los Angeles, and a walk-through express cafe. In the cafe, dinner for two with appetizer, wine and one of superstar pastry chef Mary Bergin's desserts ("Save room," she commands, "or eat dessert first."), runs about \$80 plus tip. A reservations-suggested upstairs restaurant, scheduled to open in October, will offer white-linen service and an upscale menu.

Bongos Cuban Cafe, inspired and developed by singer Gloria Estefan and husband/producer Emilio, serves traditional Cuban dishes with a South Beach sizzle (dinner for two, including Margaritas, about \$90). There's also an express cafe for diners on a budget. The two-story, 16,000-square-foot restaurant is a blend of an Aztec ruin carved from a rain forest, and a plantation house with a sweeping veranda that supports an eye-popping, three-story golden pineapple. As tropical landscaping sways in the breeze, nighttime guests dine to the thump of a Desi Arnaz-replica band.

House of Blues, created by Hard Rock Cafe founder Isaac Tigrett with celebrity backers Dan Aykroyd, Jim Belushi and John Goodman, features Mississippi Delta cuisine (dinner for two, \$65) in a weathered roadhouse barn worthy of the Blues Brothers themselves. A 2,000-seat theater plays host to nightly entertainment (tickets run \$10 to \$35, depending on the performers); a daily gospel buffet brunch is \$24 per person.

Reflecting modern brand-consciousness, each of the restaurants contains a retail outlet for apparel and other souvenirs.

With architectural flair and attention to detail bor-

dering on the fanatical, the restaurateurs spared little

expense - if Puck's wife, famed decorator Barbara Lazaroff, is any indication. "I get nervous when I buy a suit," says Puck. "Don't tell me the price."

"We spent \$8 million," says Lazaroff. As Puck stages a mock swoon, his wife adds, "And

I did the bar counter myself." Over the summer, while technicians attempted to fix the air conditioning, a wilting Lazaroff painstakingly laid \$30,000 worth of gemstones into the bar.

Across the street, the Virgin Megastore, a two-story, 49,000-square-foot tribute to What's Happening Now, cost \$14 million to build and another \$7 million to stock, says Virgin Entertainment Group president and CEO Ian Duffell (doo-FELL).

"Sometimes you take a deep breath and do something that is unbelievable," Duffell says.

For instance, an inventory of more than 200,000 competitively priced music titles, ranging from pop to classical to jazz to show tunes, ensures that if the Megastore doesn't carry it, "your musical tastes are unique," Duffel says.

The Megastore comes with a lavishly tiled ground floor surrounded by 86 32-inch monitors and an 11-by-14-foot jumbo screen belting out videos, movie trailers and special events.

And furthermore, upstairs are books, videos, computer software - titles in each specialty number in the tens of thousands - and a 50-seat cafe, with a balcony on a hydraulic lift that doubles as a stage for visiting performers. Among those are Vanessa Williams and Duran Duran.

"What's amazing is, we spend \$1 million on a state-of-the-art hydraulic stage," Duffell says, "and people say, "Wow! A kids' listening post!" Sampling stations for tykes and adults number more than 400, allowing customers to preview full-length CDs and videos.

East up the strip, beyond AMC's gargantuan 24-theater complex toward Pleasure Island, lies the retail district with Sosa Family Cigar, home of the \$30 hand-rolled stogie; Hoypoloi, a Zen-themed art gallery; and the Disney-owned Candy Cauldron, a sweets factory set in the dungeon of the wicked queen from "Snow White."

At the far end is Starabilius, a menagerie of nostalgia that includes a \$100,000 guitar signed by each of the Beatles, a \$35,000 blouse worn by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz" and a Shelby Donald Duck Whizzer motor bike, restored, for \$8,995.

Nearly dropping shoppers will be lured to Forty Thirst Street, where exotic juices and flavored coffees hold out the hope of revival.

"I'm surprised at our level of sales," says Mitch Menaker, managing partner of the Las Vegas-based line of stores that includes Starabilia. "We're already on par with our Vegas store, and most of our sales have been local."

In fact, notwithstanding the bugs common to all new businesses, Menaker's only ongoing problem is Disney employees asking for their cast-member discount. "They have a problem understanding third-party relationships," Menaker says. "Disney doesn't own us."

Up the street at Virgin, Duffell also reports brisk activity. "You never expect to make

money the first year," he says, "but we could have a nice surprise."

This much is certain: The opening of the glittering West Side, accompanied by signs directing motorists to Downtown Disney, symbolizes the end of the lakeside Village Marketplace as a quiet, quaint respite from theme park hubbub.

Indeed, the venerable Marketplace itself is in the midst of a major makeover that began last October with the opening of "The World of Disney," a sprawling showcase for Mickey Mouse-licensed merchandise. Additions anticipated this fall include the LEGO Imagination Center, a Ghirardelli Soda Fountain and Chocolate Shop, and a massive McDonald's.

Next door, Pleasure Island's nightclub scene plans to add by the spring of 1998 the BET SoundStage Club, a jazz, rhythm and blues, soul and hip-hop emporium from the owners of Black Entertainment Television; and the Wildhorse Saloon, where guests will find barbecue and current country music.

Additions for the West Side in 1998 include Copperfield Magic Underground, a magic store and restaurant; DisneyQuest, an indoor virtual theme park; and Cirque du Soleil, with avant-garde circus acts, special effects and outlandish costumes. Beyond that are two more "development pads," one for a restaurant, one for a theater, but, so far, nothing is slated for those locations, Holz said.

Disney's muscle-building in the area of adult-oriented and after-hours dining and amusement can be viewed as a response to other nearby urban entertainment centers, including CityWalk at the entrance of Universal Studios-Florida, scheduled to open in 1998 with NASCAR Cafe, Motown Cafe, an E! Entertainment Television production facility, Marvel [Comics] Mania, Pat O'Brien's, a club dedicated to the memory of reggae artist Bob Marley, and a 16-screen Cineplex Odeon.

"Park one time; you're not going to have to guess where it is, or what it is," says CityWalk vice president Ric Florell, in an obvious jab at Disney's foot-wearying spread. "It's in the heart of the park, right there where everyone can find it."

Disney's response is not to competition, says Holz, but to consumer demand. Visitors expect more from Disney, "and we're giving them a strong concept, one they can't find anywhere else."

"Anybody looking for the next great 'wow,'" says Holz, starry-eyed, "that's who will visit Downtown Disney."

TABULAR OR GRAPHIC MATERIAL SET FORTH IN THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT DISPLAYABLE

PHOTO (5C) MAP (C); Caption: (C) The Virgin Megastore carries more than 200,000 music titles and has a cafe with entertainment. GREG FIGHT/Tribune photo; (2C) Buy a \$30

hand-rolled stogie, left, or a restored Donald Duck motor bike at Starabiliias, right, for \$8,995. GREG FIGHT/Tribune photos; (C) Wolfgang Puck Cafe is one of the West Side's three major eateries, featuring California cuisine. Walt Disney Co. photo; (C) Downtown Disney West Side Pleasure Island Marketplace; (MAP) (C) West Side ESSEX JAMES/Tribune map

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

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Financial Times

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Thursday, October 9, 1997

Companies and Finance: The Americas

Marvel rescue plan rejected by banks

By Richard Tomkins in New York

Attempts to rescue Marvel Entertainment, the US comics group, from bankruptcy were in disarray yesterday after it emerged that some of the company's lender banks had refused to support a reorganisation plan drawn up 10 days ago.

Marvel said it now faced the threat of piecemeal liquidation because it was running out of cash and the banks had refused any more money as long as their loans were still outstanding.

The company has been in Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection for 10 months, and there is unlikely to be much further progress in effecting a rescue before the bankruptcy court's next hearing on October 24.

Earlier this year, Carl Icahn led a group of bondholders who seized control of Marvel from the financier Ronald Perelman after a long tussle.

Since then Mr Icahn, now Marvel chairman, has been trying to rescue it.

At the end of last month, High River, an entity controlled by Mr Icahn, and Westgate, a New York money management plan, finalised a plan under which they would give Marvel's banks \$385m in cash and ownership of Marvel's Panini sticker business to settle their claims against the company.

The deal was reached with Chase Manhattan Bank, acting as leader of a syndicate of Marvel's lenders, and the other banks were expected to agree to it.

Yesterday, however, Marvel said although more than 50 per cent of the banks had supported the deal, it failed to achieve the necessary two-thirds support.

People in the Marvel camp speculated that some banks may have been persuaded not to support the plan by Toy Biz, a US maker of toys based on Marvel characters, which yesterday

came up with a proposal to merge itself with Marvel.

Details were not disclosed, but Toy Biz said Marvel's senior secured lenders would receive a combination of cash, common stock and preferred stock in the newly-merged company, plus the proceeds from the sale of Marvel's Panini sticker business.

Marvel's unsecured creditors would receive warrants in the merged company, and holders of Marvel common stock would receive subscription rights.

Toy Biz's shareholders would receive one new share in the merged company for each existing Toy Biz share.

Toy Biz and Marvel are intertwined because Toy Biz makes toys based on Marvel characters under a royalty-free licence agreement, in exchange for which Marvel has about 27 per cent of Toy Biz's common stock.

Marvel shares closed \$ 1/4 down at \$2 1/4, while Toy Biz's closed \$ 3/8 up at \$9 1/8.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY (TICKER): TOY BIZ INC.; Marvel Entertainment Group Inc.; MacAndrews & Forbes Holdings Inc. (TBZ MRV X.MAF)

ORGANIZATION: MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT; TOY BIZ INC

KEY WORDS: SHAREHOLDING; MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS; MANAGEMENT & MARKETING; EQUITY PRICES; COMPANY NEWS; MEDIA (PUBLISHING); EQUITIES & BONDS; PRICES; COMPANY ACTIVITIES; SHAREHOLDINGS; COMPANY ACTIVITIES; COMPANY MANAGEMENT; COMPANY ACTIVITIES; CLOSURES & RECEIVERSHIPS; COMPANY ACTIVITIES; ACQUISITIONS; PUBLISHING; MEDIA

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Thursday, October 16, 1997

BUSINESS

BRIEFLY

Staff And Wire Reports

STATE

Marvel-ous Hire At Stanley

The new vice president for marketing and brand development at The Stanley Works, announced Wednesday, has a background that fits with Stanley Chairman John M. Trani's vow to make a big splash in the hard goods industry.

Kenneth O. Lewis, 44, worked for The Walt Disney Co. from 1986 until 1996, creating corporate partnerships with Coca Cola, Sears, McDonald's, Major League Baseball and others.

Lewis also has managed promotions for Six Flags Corp., The Ice Follies and Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey.

Most recently, Lewis was an executive with the company that produces Marvel Comics.

NU Retains Specialist

Northeast Utilities has retained a human resources specialist to support employees at its five nuclear facilities, the company announced Wednesday.

Robert Long, with 40 years' experience in the nuclear industry, will serve a three-to-five month contract as human resources head of NU's nuclear facilities and report directly to Bruce Kenyon, president and chief executive of NU.

Kenyon said that he was especially pleased to have Long to help work with management and workers during the restarting of the company's Millstone plants in Waterford.

Brillante Award Made

George Bahamonde, president of the United Way of the Capital Area, has received the Brillante Award from the National Society of Hispanic M.B.A.s for exceptional contributions to the Hispanic community.

The Hartford region's United Way raised more than \$21 million last year to benefit more than 300,000 people.

A native of Cuba, Bahamonde lives in Bloomfield and has spent more than 25 years with United Way in various states and Puerto Rico.

SBA Loans At \$190 Million

The U.S. Small Business Administration reported that the dollars lent to small business owners in Connecticut during the fiscal year ended Sept. 30 hit a record.

The SBA's Hartford District office said 801 loans totaling \$190.5 million were guaranteed under SBA programs, creating 5,444 new jobs in the state.

The top lender among more than 100 participating lenders in Connecticut was First National Bank of New England, which approved 106 loans amounting to \$48.6 million.

"The figures are proof positive that the SBA's role during the past give years in fighting the credit crunch has paid off significantly," said Jo- Ann Van Vechten, director of the Hartford District office.

Keiler Gets Contract

Keiler & Co., a Farmington advertising agency, has been hired to create a first-ever series of ads for Bloomberg Personal, a year-old financial-planning magazine.

The campaign, designed to attract advertising to the magazine, highlights Bloomberg Personal's affluent readership and relatively low ad rates. The ads are aimed at luxury automotive, jewelry, apparel and other high-end advertisers.

One of the ads created at Keiler features the headline "The lowest cost per millionaire" and compares the advertising rates at Bloomberg Personal with those at Worth and Smart Money, two of the magazine's major competitors.

The ads will begin appearing Monday in The New York Times and several trade publications.

Xerox Division Gets Award

Xerox Business Services on Wednesday was honored with the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award for service.

Xerox Business Services, a division of Stamford-based Xerox Corp., is a document consulting service based in Rochester, N.Y. It has 4,000 client companies in 36 countries.

In 1989, the Business and Systems group of Xerox received a Baldrige Award in manufacturing.

The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards were established by Congress in 1987 and are given each year to American companies that show excellence in manufacturing, service and small business. Only eight of the 32 awards have been given in the service category.

"Being named a Baldrige Award winner is a significant milestone for XBS," said Thomas Dolan, XBS president. "This honor validates that we are on the right track to achieve our goal of world-class business excellence."

NATION

Ford Profits Jump 64%

DEARBORN, Mich. -- Ford Motor Co.'s profits soared 64 percent in the third quarter thanks to aggressive cost cutting and better results from overseas operations.

The No. 2 automaker said Wednesday it cut \$500 million in costs during the July-September period and \$2.3 billion through the first nine months of 1997. Ford began the year with a goal to cut \$1 billion.

Ford earned a record \$1.12 billion, or 93 cents a share, up from \$686 million, or 57 cents a share, in the third quarter last year.

The earnings were a record for the quarter and were above analysts' expectations. The average estimate of 17 analysts surveyed by First Call was 83 cents a share.

Analysts said Ford is also seeing gains from the shift in consumer demand from cars to higher-profit light trucks.

In the first nine months of the year, Ford sold more than 156,000 Expedition sport-utility vehicles, which is more than four times as many as the model it replaced, the Bronco.

NCR To Cut 1,000 Jobs

DAYTON, Ohio -- NCR Corp. said Wednesday it will eliminate about 1,000 jobs as it gives its business units responsibility for sales as well as production to make them clearly responsible for their own profits and losses.

The Dayton-based computer maker had not yet determined how much money it might save because of the change. Sales had been handled by a separate unit.

The 1,000 jobs, many of which are staff support positions, amount to about 2.5 percent of NCR's 38,500 employees. The job losses will be spread among NCR's operations in 130 countries, company spokesman Bob Farkas said.

Also Wednesday, the company reported that its losses narrowed in the third quarter, but mostly because of lower tax and interest costs. NCR's stock dropped \$2.31, to close at \$35.62 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The last major job reduction -- 8,500 -- came two years ago, when NCR was a subsidiary of AT&T Corp. The action followed two consecutive quarters of operating losses.

In addition to computer systems, NCR makes automated teller machines and electronic checkout scanners for retail stores.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

COMPANY (TICKER): STANLEY WORKS; Ford Motor Co.; NCR Corp. (SWK F NCR)

NEWS CATEGORY: COLUMN

SIC: 6311, 3714, 6035, 6159, 6331, 6351; 3577

EDITION: STATEWIDE

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DATE AND TIME PRINTING ENDED: 10/22/97 08:26:49 am (Central)

OFFLINE TRANSMISSION TIME: 00:00:01

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NUMBER OF LINES CHARGED: 369

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U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Liberty Place Building
325 7th Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20530

October 21, 1997

MJM:JDV
60-2721-0009

VIA FACSIMILE

Michael F. Brockmeyer, Esq.
Piper & Marbury
36 South Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Re: Diamond's Response to Civil Investigative Demand No. 16970

Dear Mike:

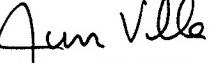
Based on our telephone calls last week and Joe Gormley's letter to me dated October 20, the following are additional clarifications regarding the response of Diamond Comic Distributors, Inc. ("Diamond") to the above-referenced civil investigative demand ("CID").

(b)(3), 1314(g)

(b)(3), 1314(g)

If any of the statements in this letter fail to correspond with your understanding of our agreements or if you have any additional questions, please contact me at (202) 514-8361 so that we may discuss them.

Sincerely yours,


James D. Villa
Trial Attorney
Civil Task Force

United States Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Civil Task Force

325 7th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

Fax Number: (202) 307-9952

Voice Number: (202) 514-8361



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: October 21, 1997

TO: Mike Brockmeyer

of: Piper & Marbury

Fax Number: (410) 576-7695

FROM: James D. Villa

Pages Sent (including this sheet): 3

Remarks: Mike, please call with any comments.

TRANSMISSION REPORT

(WED) OCT 22 1997 08:44

ANTITRUST CTF II

DOCUMENT #	3561021-684
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DEPARTMENT	



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

*Liberty Place Building
Washington, DC 20530*

October 22, 1997

MJM: ABO
60-2721-0009

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COMICS
60-2721-0009
Moltenbrey
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Mucchetti
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Raskovich

Re: Interview with Antitrust Division Attorneys

Dear Mr. Turner:

Per our telephone conversation on October 21, 1997, the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice is conducting an investigation into the comic book industry. In order to learn more about the industry, attorneys with the Division would like to conduct a telephone interview with you to learn more about your experience in the industry and to gain useful background which would help our investigation. Neither you nor your company are the focus of our investigation; rather, we simply thought you could provide us with useful information. This call, which we would anticipate lasting no more than an hour, could be scheduled at your convenience.

Please contact me at (202) 305-0046 upon receipt of this letter so that we may discuss this matter. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

(b)(7)c

Paralegal Specialist
Civil Task Force

COMICS RETAILER

SEPTEMBER 1997

Initial new comic book orders by retailers

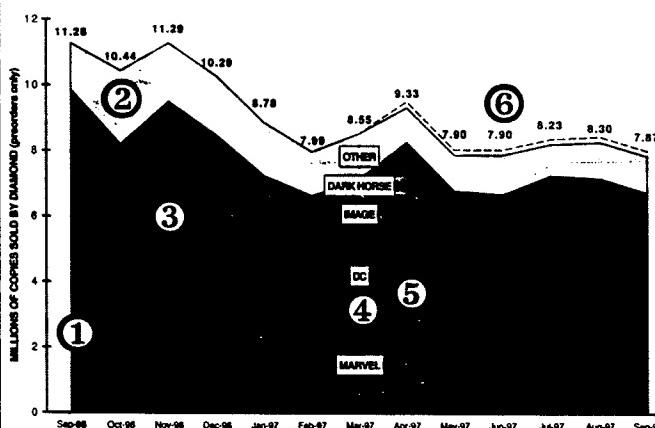
The TOP 25

1	Uncanny X-Men #349	\$1.99	Marvel
2	X-Men #69	\$1.99	Marvel
3	Spawn #66	\$1.95	Image
4	Fantastic Four #13	\$1.99	Marvel
5	Wolverine #118	\$1.99	Marvel
6	Iron Man #13	\$1.99	Marvel
7	Avengers #13	\$1.99	Marvel
8	Ascension #1	\$2.50	Image
9	JLA #12	\$1.95	DC
10	Darkness #8	\$2.50	Image
11	Captain America #13	\$1.99	Marvel
12	Generation X #32	\$1.99	Marvel
13	Curse of the Spawn #13	\$1.95	Image
14	X-Man #32	\$1.99	Marvel
15	X-Force #71	\$1.99	Marvel
16	X-Factor #139	\$1.99	Marvel
17	Gen¹³ #23	\$2.50	Image
18	Cable #48	\$1.99	Marvel
19	Divine Right #1	\$2.50	Image
20	JLA Annual #1	\$3.95	DC
21	Incredible Hulk #458	\$1.99	Marvel
22	New Mutants #1	\$2.50	Marvel
23	Tales of the Witchblade #3	\$2.95	Image
24	Amazing Spider-Man #428	\$1.99	Image
25	Gambit #3	\$2.50	Marvel

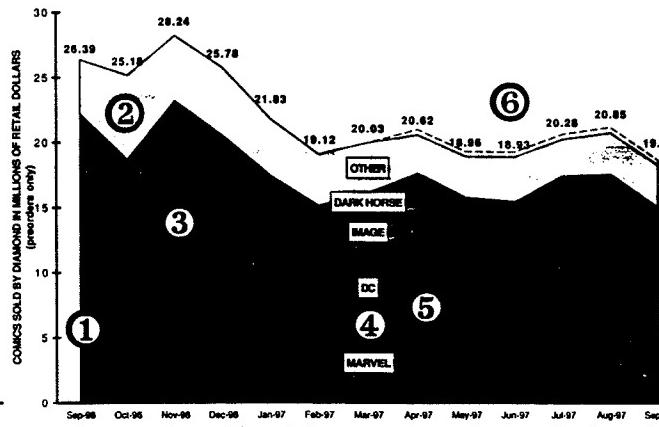
Source: Diamond Comic Distributors

DIRECT MARKET SIZE

Initial orders for new comic books reported by Diamond:
approximately **7.87 million copies**



Points of interest: ① "Heroes Reborn" begins; ② Extreme leaves Image; ③ Superman's wedding; ④ Superman's new look; ⑤ Amalgam II; and ⑥ Marvel's return to Diamond reduces the number of sampled comics from 350+ to 300; the dashed line is our projection of what #301-350 account for. September 1997's chart includes 301 titles, accounting for data omitted from Diamond's *Dialogue*.



STORE SHARE

Average per-comics-store share of comics ordered during month (based on an estimated base of 4,500 stores):

1,749 copies

...amounting to a total of

\$4,290.18
at retail cover price.

PRICE WATCH

Average price of all comic books offered by distributors this month: **\$2.65**

Average price of all comic books ordered by retailers this month: **\$2.45**

Average price of the Top 25 comic books ordered by retailers this month: **\$2.22**

Methodology: Diamond Comic Distributors provided its monthly list of indexed initial sales rankings in *Dialogue*. Several publishers provided *Comics Retailer* their initial Diamond orders, totalling more than a dozen comics found on the chart, from which *Comics Retailer* computed a mean order index number. That figure has been applied to determine marketwide sales totals and is compared with previous months' data, provided by Diamond and Marvel.

Alternative distributors soliciting advance orders monthly should contact *Comics Retailer*'s editor to arrange for inclusion in this feature.

MARKET BEAT

COMICS REPORT

AUGUST • 1997

Here's what's happening in stores! On the following pages, retailers describe sales conditions and their industry concerns in their own words. Below and elsewhere in this section, sales reports provided by retailers and analyzed by our staff are presented. Most information has been drawn from the "Market Beat" forms retailers sent to us. When possible, returned forms have been transcribed here verbatim. Thanks to all participants, and don't forget to send in this month's form!

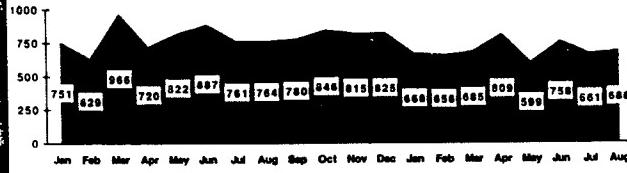
Average UNIT SALES for retailers' 25 best-selling titles

Most of our retailer respondents provided unit sales figures for the Top 25 selling titles in their stores. Below, we have averaged their figures across *all stores in the unit sales sample* (and not just those reporting sales on a given title) to show the average number of copies sold of each reported title per store. Except where noted, results reported are for the newest issues on sale during the reporting period. The "percentage change" column reflects the difference in unit sales reported on the title from the previous month. The turnout figure for each title reflects what percentage of our comics-selling respondents said it was a "Top 25" title in their stores.

Title	Publisher	# sold	%Chg.	turnout	Title	Publisher	# sold	%Chg.	turnout
1 <i>Uncanny X-Men</i>	Marvel	43.14	-3%	93%	26 <i>Preacher</i>	DC	9.11	+2%	25%
2 <i>X-Men</i>	Marvel	40.11	-4%	89%	27 <i>Amazing Spider-Man</i>	Marvel	9.07	-15%	43%
3 <i>Fantastic Four</i>	Marvel	34.64	+25%	75%	28 <i>Genesis #4</i>	DC	8.96	-15%	29%
4 <i>JLA</i>	DC	30.25	+21%	86%	29 <i>Uncanny X-Men '97</i>	Marvel	8.54	new title	25%
5 <i>Wolverine</i>	Marvel	30.25	+12%	79%	30 <i>Alpha Flight</i>	Marvel	7.14	-39%	27%
6 <i>Avengers</i>	Marvel	25.50	+18%	68%	31 <i>Xena</i>	Topps	6.89	new title	14%
7 <i>Spawn</i>	Image	24.82	-23%	75%	32 <i>Excalibur</i>	Marvel	6.75	+50%	21%
8 <i>Iron Man</i>	Marvel	23.75	+87%	68%	33 <i>Gambit</i>	Marvel	6.25	+75%	21%
9 <i>Generation X</i>	Marvel	21.61	+6%	64%	34 <i>Spider-Man</i>	Marvel	6.25	-9%	32%
10 <i>X-Factor</i>	Marvel	18.43	+33%	58%	35 <i>Action Comics</i>	DC	6.04	-23%	36%
11 <i>Curse of Spawn</i>	Image	18.21	-6%	57%	36 <i>Spectacular Spider-Man</i>	Marvel	5.93	+9%	32%
12 <i>Captain America</i>	Marvel	17.36	no chg.	50%	37 <i>Superman</i>	DC	5.86	-23%	39%
13 <i>Cable</i>	Marvel	17.11	+9%	54%	38 <i>Mage: The Hero Defined</i>	Image	5.57	-37%	12%
14 <i>X-Force</i>	Marvel	16.07	+25%	46%	39 <i>Starman</i>	DC	5.43	+205%	18%
15 <i>X-Man</i>	Marvel	16.07	+5%	50%	40 <i>Superman: Man of Steel</i>	DC	5.14	-16%	32%
16 <i>Genesis #1</i>	DC	15.71	new title	57%	41 <i>Batman: The Long Halloween</i>	DC	4.93	+21%	18%
17 <i>Gen³</i>	Image	14.75	+16%	50%	42 <i>Adventures of Superman</i>	DC	4.79	-29%	36%
18 <i>Astro City</i>	Image	12.89	+88%	32%	43 <i>Batman</i>	DC	4.04	-40%	21%
19 <i>Witchblade</i>	Image	12.64	+3%	50%	44 <i>Deadpool</i>	Marvel	3.79	-19%	20%
20 <i>Darkness</i>	Image	11.89	-11%	43%	45 <i>Detective Comics</i>	DC	3.79	+18%	21%
21 <i>Genesis #2</i>	DC	11.79	-25%	42%	46 <i>X-Files</i>	Topps	3.68	+96%	21%
22 <i>Incredible Hulk</i>	Marvel	11.46	-24%	46%	47 <i>Sensational Spider-Man</i>	Marvel	3.07	+82%	25%
23 <i>Genesis #3</i>	DC	10.54	-11%	36%	48 <i>Lady Death: The Crucible</i>	Chaos	2.86	+471%	23%
24 <i>WildC.A.T.S/X-Men</i>	Image	10.39	-32%	21%	49 <i>Supergirl</i>	DC	2.50	+54%	21%
25 <i>Kiss: The Psycho Circus</i>	Image	9.86	new title	36%	50 <i>Green Lantern</i>	DC	2.25	+67%	14%

Titles with sales gains over the previous issue of five or more copies are printed in boldface.

PUBLISHERS' PIECE SHARE of retailers' 25 best-selling titles



Retailers' Top 25 titles each month have accounted for the above numbers of copies.

Spawning sales

- The *Spawn* movie glow over, DC passed Image among retailers' Top 25 sellers. *Genesis* helped DC in August, its early issues posting numbers comparable to 1996's *Final Night*.
- Sales sparked on "Heroes Reborn" titles as the conclusion neared.
- Back to one title a month, *JLA* picked up in sales.
- Kiss: The Psycho Circus* helped Image's totals.

The average store reporting unit sales to us sold 688 copies of its Top 25 titles, for gross revenue of around \$1,725. (Last month, the top 25 titles accounted for 661 copies.) For just those top titles (and not the whole market), these publishers accounted for the most unit sales by retailers:

Publisher	Share of Retailers' Top 25 titles	Share of Distributors' Top 25 for the month	Share of Overall Distributor sales
1. Marvel	54.83%	60%	35.75%
2. DC	22.15%	20%	31.63%
3. Image	18.68%	20%	14.62%
4. Topps	1.54%		2.05%
5. Chaos	0.81%		1.34%
6. Dark Horse	0.46%		4.58%
7. Crusade	0.24%		0.64%
8. Sirius	0.24%		0.43%
9. Awesome	0.21%		1.62%
10. London Night	0.20%		0.35%
Others	0.64%		6.99%

The right two columns are last issue's Distributor Rankings on how much of distributors' sales to retailers each publisher accounted for. Publishers in boldface sold a greater share of Retailers' Top 25 titles than they sold both to the distributor overall and in the Distributors' Top 25 for the month, indicating their lines performed much better at retail than at the distributor level.

Comic Encounters • Terrace, BRITISH COLUMBIA**Contact:** Gerry Mattson, Owner/Manager, (250) 638-7293**Biggest positive sales surprises:** "Spawn movie really helped sagging *Spawn* sales — I hope (but doubt) it lasts."**Biggest negative sales surprises:** "Most normal Marvel titles — *Silver Surfer*, *Daredevil*, *What If?*, etc., are totally dead."**Comments:** "New issue sales were down for August, but back issue sales were way up, more than making up for the new issue decline."Want to participate electronically? E-mail us at
marketbeat@krause.com**Zanadu • Seattle, WASHINGTON****Contact:** Kevin Halstead, Manager, (206) 443-1311**Biggest positive sales surprises:** "Genesis series and crossovers! *Wolverine* is hot due to new art team! *Grub Girl!*"**Biggest negative sales surprises:** "Thursday deliveries (thanks UPS)! Glad that's over with."**Matt's Cavalcade of Comics • Corvallis, OREGON****Contact:** Matt Ashland, Owner**Biggest positive sales surprises:** "Inu-Yasha, Blade of the Immortal."**Biggest negative sales surprises:** "Flashback comics."**Metro Comics • Santa Barbara, CALIFORNIA****Contact:** Bob Ficarra, Owner, (805) 963-2168**Biggest positive sales surprises:** "Alpha Flight, anything *Spawn*, *Thunderbolts*, *Genesis*."**Biggest negative sales surprises:** "Batman movie did nothing for sales. Expecting the same for *Steel*."**Comments:** "A special thanks to Wildstorm's Jeff Marrothe for setting up a very successful signing with Brandon Choi and friends. His efforts directly resulted in Wildstorm selling more books (now and future issues)!"**Delight Collectibles • Seattle, WASHINGTON****Contact:** Brian Meredith**Biggest positive sales surprises:** "Alpha Flight and Ka-Zar picking up speed; *Green Arrow/Green Lantern* crossover very popular."**Biggest negative sales surprises:** "Genesis did OK, but not as good as *Final Night*."**Comments:** "New *Spawn* readers daily due to movie and cartoon releases."**Golden Age Collectables • Seattle, WASHINGTON****Contact:** Mike Astorga, Comics Manager, (206) 622-9799**Biggest positive sales surprises:** "Genesis mini-series and its DC tie-ins. 'Zero Tolerance'."**Biggest negative sales surprises:** "Red Rocket 7 #1, great book, awkward size."**Comments:** "Demand keeps growing as we keep reordering. Comics fans as well as new readers can't get enough of this well-written stuff."**Cosmic Slop Comics • Antioch, CALIFORNIA****Contact:** Bob Soliz, Manager, (510) 754-8740**Biggest positive sales surprises:** "Sales of *Spawn* titles! God bless reorder houses!"**Biggest negative sales surprises:** "Diamond Comics reorders (where?) UPS strike! Lack of new product."**Comments:** "Diamond's 'One Call Does It All' is a joke! Fantasy Dist. reorders make us money. Comics retailing is fun, lots of work!"**Stand-Up Comics • El Cerrito, CALIFORNIA****Contact:** Bob Smoot, Owner, (510) 525-3223**Biggest positive sales surprises:** "Spawn, Gen¹³/Generation X, Astro City, Darkness, JLA, Image Voyager Packs."**Biggest negative sales surprises:** "Maverick, all Acclaim titles, 'Zero Tolerance' crossover."**Comments:** "*Spawn* was extremely kind in August."**Average UNIT SALES for retailers' best-selling TRADE PAPERBACKS**

All units measured in BOOKS sold.

Title	Publisher	#sold	%chg
1 <i>Spawn I</i>	Image.....	1.99	+165%
2 <i>Spawn IV</i>	Image.....	1.28	+33%
3 <i>Spawn II</i>	Image.....	1.14	+145%
4 <i>Astro City: Life in the Big City</i>	Image.....	1.04	+386%
5 <i>JLA: New World Order</i>	DC.....	0.71	-38%
6 <i>Spawn III</i>	Image.....	0.68	+46%
7 <i>True Faith</i>	DC.....	0.67	new title
8 <i>Preacher: Gone to Texas</i>	DC.....	0.60	+30%
9 <i>Preacher: Proud Americans</i>	DC.....	0.46	new title
10 <i>Gon Swimmin'</i>	DC.....	0.42	new title
11 <i>Ranma 1/2 Vol. 9</i>	Viz.....	0.42	+6%
12 <i>Gen¹³ European Vacation</i>	Image.....	0.33	not ranked
13 <i>Ghost in the Shell</i>	Dark Horse.....	0.33	not ranked
14 <i>X 1999</i>	Viz.....	0.17	not ranked
15 <i>Preacher: Until the End of the World</i>	DC.....	0.15	-59%
16 <i>Batman: Knightfall 1</i>	DC.....	0.13	+17%
17 <i>Batman: Dark Knight Returns 10th Ann.</i>	DC.....	0.13	-13%
18 <i>Body Bags</i>	Dark Horse.....	0.13	new title
19 <i>Essential X-Men Vol. 2</i>	Marvel.....	0.08	not ranked
20 <i>JLA: A Midsummer's Nightmare</i>	DC.....	0.08	not ranked
21 <i>Lady Death: The Reckoning</i>	Chaos.....	0.08	-22%
22 <i>Big Book of Martyrs</i>	DC.....	0.05	new title
23 <i>Strangers in Paradise Vol. 3</i>	Abstract.....	0.04	-71%
24 <i>Batman: Knightfall 2</i>	DC.....	0.04	not ranked
25 <i>Lady Death: The Odyssey</i>	Chaos.....	0.04	-42%

Titles with gains of more than one copy are in boldface.

PUBLISHERS' PIECE SHARE of retailers' 2 best-selling TPBs

The average store reporting unit sales to us sold 12 copies of its Top 2 trade paperbacks, for gross revenue of around \$180. (Last month, the figure was 11 copies.) For just those top titles (and not the whole market), these publishers accounted for the most unit sales by retailers:

1 Image.....	55.02%	4 Dark Horse.....	3.90%
2 DC.....	31.95%	5 Marvel.....	2.39%
3 Viz.....	4.97%	Other.....	1.77%

Charting the trades

• Response in this category has been very strong — strong enough to warrant expanding the survey from asking the Top 2 trade paperbacks to the Top 6, now including trade hardcovers in the mix. The changes take effect with the October 1997 survey inserted in this issue.

• There's a good reason to change: Asking just the top two titles renders all unit sales into fractions, and underrepresents the depths of individual publishers' lines. Note this month, in which almost every respondent used one of the two spaces to list a *Spawn* graphic novel. While it's true that half of all trade paperbacks in respondents' Top 2 sellers this month came from Image, we're interested in seeing how asking for information on more titles affects the charts.

• As before, please tell us which specific title you're reporting sales on. Just "Sandman" could be any of a dozen volumes.

Milton Griep

The World According to Griep

Time for a change

This column is the first I've written since July of last year, when John and I sold our business to Diamond Comic Distributors. I have personally acquired the rights to *Internal Correspondence* and *World According to Griep* as part of the sale of Capital's assets. I wanted those rights, because publishing and writing for IC were among the things that I enjoyed most about running Capital and I wanted the option to continue that in the future. This column is being written under the aegis of Griep Consulting LLC, my consulting company.

In the year since the sale, I've been doing some consulting, working on Capital wind-up activities, looking around for a new business to start or acquire and, most importantly, relaxing. I've had a chance to step back from the industries and markets I used to work in and look at them with more

and there's little excitement associated with the hobby.

Obviously, one problem has been that the #1 companies in the comics and card businesses have been in bankruptcy court and involved in rancorous litigation for more than six months. With Marvel Comics and Fleer both operating with very short-term outlooks and crippled by management focused on issues other than growing the business, there was little that could be done. Now that the fight over control of Marvel Entertainment seems to be over, the industry as a whole needs to look at the business and see if it can be fixed.

So what does a guy with no vested interests think should be done to bring excitement and growth back to the comics and card businesses? I came up with six suggestions that I think could help revive the world I love.

"What should be done to bring excitement and growth back to the comics and card businesses? Here are six suggestions..."

perspective than the day-to-day hustle and bustle allowed. Recently, I attended the San Diego Expo and Convention to say hello to some old friends and take the pulse of the businesses I exited when we sold Capital. I found the pulse, but I can't say it was strong.

On the plane on the way out to San Diego, I read the latest *Comics Retailer*, which, since IC stopped publishing, has become the best source of information on industry-wide trends in the comics business. The comics market-size chart showed what I had been hearing anecdotally: The comics industry has shrunk an additional 25-30% in the last year. Multiplying out the monthly dollars produces an annual retail volume of just over \$200 million in an industry that once probably neared \$1 billion retail in annual volume.

The card business is also ailing. The number of card shops (like the number of comics shops) has continued to shrink rapidly. With few exceptions, new releases continue to do poorly,

• **Stop selling crap!** This one sounds simple, but it's very difficult. Everyone in the business has fixed costs to cover, and every dollar of sales helps, but, unless this is a goal of retailers and publishers, I don't think much progress can be made. (Note that I've excepted distributors from this requirement, since I've always viewed the distributors' duty as making as many products as possible accessible to the market. Rest assured, I'll get to them later.)

Every time a consumer buys a comic book or a pack of trading cards that doesn't meet his or her expectations, the likelihood of that consumer making the next purchase is reduced. I believe that publishers, especially the largest ones, know when the products they're putting out are not as good as they could be. I also believe that a good retailer knows the difference between a good product and a poor one.

If you know the difference, why are you continuing to hurt your market by allowing consumers to buy products

they associate with your brand or your store that you know they won't like?

Publishers — if you know an editor or creator isn't doing good work, end the association. Publishing a marginal product that hurts your brand value is worse than publishing nothing at all.

Retailers — if you know that a particular line has been poor, stop racking it. Order enough for pre-sold purchases and save your rack space for good products. You'd be better off giving three facings to the same good product rather than filling the other two with crap that's ultimately going to turn off your customers.

I recently saw a video of a speech Jack Welch, CEO of GE (which also has some entertainment and media businesses through its NBC subsidiary), gave to his top management earlier this year at their annual meeting in Boca Raton. Welch is generally acknowledged as one of the best CEOs out there. A comment that really stuck with me was his statement that, as an "A+" company, GE didn't have any room for "C" performers among its management. He charged his managers with eliminating the C performers from their companies and not wasting their time trying to turn Cs into Bs. He backed that up by saying that, at quarterly review time, he intended to review how well his management had done at eliminating mediocre performers from their ranks. How much better would the publishers and retailers in the comics and card business be, if they stopped trying to improve the performance of poor products and focused, instead, on making the best products perform better?

• **Get out of downmarket channels.** Publishers should get out of downmarket channels, at least with the same products they sell through specialty stores. That the channel affects perception of the product is one of two important lessons that are reinforced



The World According to Grieppe

by the Beanie Babies phenomenon. This relatively new product line has been tremendously successful while distributed only through specialty stores. The manufacturers have undoubtedly turned down multi-million-dollar orders from discount chains in order to preserve their brand value.

The same principles apply to comics and cards: Trying to position a comic book or card product as collectible while selling it in discount stores and clubs is well-nigh impossible. There is certainly a role for those channels in distributing entry-level products and juvenile merchandise, but keep the products directed at collectors out of them. The harm you're causing your brands is greater than the value of the extra sales you're getting.

• **Shorten the reorder cycle.** In a largely non-returnable business, reorders are absolutely critical. I had a retailer tell me how a new customer throws a kink into his inventory management, because his orders are now so tight. In a store where he sells 12 copies of *Iron Man*, issue after issue, when a new customer comes in and buys an *Iron Man*, he has to reorder it so he doesn't disappoint one of his regular customers.

This is the phenomenon on a slow, steady seller, but reorders are even more important when there's something creatively interesting about a new product and it sells out quickly. I know of no business or logistics reason why reorders can't be in a store within two to three business days of sell-out. Obviously, the first step is that the retailer has to know he's sold out, which implies a point-of-sale system, a good manual system or the kind of encyclopedic memory and constant presence in the store that I know a lot of retailers rely on.

Second, the inventory has to be where it's needed to resupply. This is typically either at the distributor or in the publisher's warehouse, if the publisher has a direct-to-retailer reorder operation. There are a variety of business arrangements, such as consignment, which can allow the risk to be where the economics make sense (at the publisher), while the product is where the logistics make sense (close to the market).

Third, distributor systems must support this service. With the transportation options currently available and information systems that support

quick response and good warehousing operations, orders received before noon can be tendered to a carrier by the end of the day and delivered to the retailer in two to three days at costs that used to be available only for ground shipments. With so few successes on new products and backlist an increasingly important part of most retailers' sales, it's a crime when a consumer walks out of a store without the product he wanted. The investments have to be made to make this work.

• **Release new comics and cards on Thursday or Friday.** I read with interest the news that *People* magazine (and probably other titles to follow) is switching its on-sale day from early in the week to Friday. The reason is a big duh. Consumers have more time and money on weekends and do most of their shopping then. Tests in the magazine business have shown that an issue released on a Friday sells 10% to 15% better than the same issue released on a Monday. A Wednesday release day was a mistake in the comics business and was based on considerations other than what fits the consumer schedule. Tuesday release days are a mistake in the card business. Release days shouldn't be for the convenience of publishers, printers, distributors or retailers; they should be for the convenience of the consumer!

• **Underprint occasionally.** As distribution has improved and as publishers have worked hard to get every single sale possible on every product, the true collectible has disappeared — everyone who wants a product is getting it. Comics, and especially cards, have relied for decades on the perception that the product being bought will hold or increase its value over time. That perception has been decimated by almost every product being available at the original retail price or below for extended periods after release.

The only way to disrupt the consumers' lackadaisical attitude toward collecting is to have some high-profile products that are unavailable after release, except at premium prices. And I'm not just talking about a limited-edition hardcover that's printed to order or a card pack that's already at the absolute top retail price the market will bear. The collector is already paying a premium price for that product. I'm talking about lower-priced comics or trading-card packs that the publish-

er knows are going to be popular.

Underprinting by even 5% and refusing to reprint, no matter how much kvetching there is, would help buttress the entire comics or card industries. Bite the bullet, lose some sales on a handful of products a year, make collecting exciting again and the medium will benefit. This is the other important lesson that is reinforced by the Beanie Babies phenomenon.

• **Change the order cycle to weekly.** Change the order cycle to weekly and shorten it considerably. An external observer looking at the system used to catalog and order new releases in the comics industry would quickly brand it insanity. Working through a book the size of *Previews* every month does not serve the publisher, the distributor or the retailer well. The order cycle is too far in advance of release, so the retailer does not have the latest information needed to predict sales.

The volume of releases each month also means that the distributor takes too long to get out the catalog, the retailer takes too long to get orders back to the distributor, the distributor takes too long to process the retailer orders, and the entire process is dragged down by the mind-numbing volume involved. A weekly process, with much shorter turnaround times for every step, would even out the work flow, shorten the cycle, and allow everyone involved to operate closer to the release date, with the much improved information that implies.

So that's what a year's perspective and some distance has led me to: Just turn the industry upside down and change the fundamental ways you do business, and things will start looking up again! But, seriously, I think that people in the industry are so focused on the downward spiral that it's been difficult to get beyond the cost-cutting mode and look at increasing the top line. Building sales takes care of costs by making it possible to afford them. I love the business I left and I want the people in it to be successful. You can't do that without changing what you're doing. ♦

Milton Grieppe, cofounder of Capital City Distribution, runs Grieppe Consulting LLC, a consulting firm in Madison, Wis. "World According to Grieppe" is ™ and this column is © 1997 Grieppe Consulting LLC.

Steve Ginsberg

Claude's Comics

Burying the comics bone with regret *Retailer trades comics for a healthier market*

I thought a while before deciding to spend precious time writing this. Never one to be accused of going gentle into that good night, however, I offer up the following swan song.

Astounding to me, and probably to other retailers who have gone out of business this summer, is the tone of cautious optimism in dialogue pertaining to the comics industry. Let's face it: For some of us, selling comic books is no longer profitable. I can honestly say that, to the best of my ability, I have promoted, supported, worked my butt off and endeavored to not only build my business but support the medium and the industry as a whole.

I supported the breadth of self-published, independently published, stapled-together mini-comics, *et al.*, as a philosophical and business imperative before it was fashionable to do so. As a result, I have made some valuable and dear friendships.

I have transcended the counter and the cash register with many of my customers, developing the kind of relationships that produce long-term customer loyalty, in addition to the incredible generosity I receive from those who understand the sort of environment I'm trying to create.

When I developed my own cartoon characters, the support from the creative community was immediate and heartfelt. That response underscored my admiration for those who persevere despite an often indifferent public.

Unfortunately, perseverance alone doesn't pay the bills. It doesn't take an MBA to know that a shrinking customer base, combined with a shrinking discount and increased costs, is a recipe for a "going out of business" sale.

If we have learned anything from the recent UPS strike, it is that dependence on one source for anything is not conducive to a healthy business. This certainly holds true for the *de facto* monopoly that now exists with our distribution system. In fact, Diamond's complete indifference as regards offering viable options during the strike only points out that, as a client, I and, by extension, my customers, are of

little importance to Diamond.

As a store built on customer service, it is frustrating, at best, and nigh impossible to provide excellent customer service when you don't receive it on the supply end. Capital City helped me make money — Diamond costs me money. So much so that, when I knew that I would have to go back to using Diamond, I realized that my future as a comics retailer was limited and immediately began to lessen my dependence on product from them.

This was easy for me to do, since most of the exclusive publishers were giving me nothing but incentives to order less of their comics, rather than motivating me to order more.

The two publishers that sell the most for me combined, Marvel and DC, are also the ones giving me the smallest discount. By fracturing the

"Capital City helped me make money — Diamond costs me money. When I knew I would have to go back to Diamond, I realized that my future as a comics retailer was limited..."

orders and discount plateaus, it becomes less profitable to sell everything, most particularly those "unfortunate" enough not to be exclusive or considered a "preferred" publisher.

Communication and power in this industry has always been one way — downward — and retailers' complete lack of power and the utter lack of commitment to us by our suppliers and distributors has never been more pronounced than it is now.

Am I the only one completely galled by Wizards of the Coast making massive purchases and investing huge amounts in promotion at the same time it takes 3% of our discount from us? Hey, folks, you want to be a Diamond and expand through acquisition, that's your prerogative and cost of doing business. I shouldn't have to finance this diversifying at a time when you are driving customers away with your constant oversaturation of new product.

And if anyone is left to wonder why Marvel isn't doing better, just ask me

about my discount. Even when I reached a particular discount plateau, I never would receive it, if Marvel didn't ship everything it was supposed to in a particular month. For me, Marvel comics have not been profitable to sell for a long time. Even ordering for subscribers only doesn't necessarily ensure 100% sell-through, and, as far as I'm concerned, that is the only way to eke out what ultimately would be a meager net profit.

All publishers need to increase their discount to retailers. While it is true that some seem to be profiting while others lose discount, I wonder, when all is said and done, how many of the

"Capital City helped me make money — Diamond costs me money. When I knew I would have to go back to Diamond, I realized that my future as a comics retailer was limited..."

stores left after 1997 are the same ones that existed before 1992?

Starting in September, all my comics ordering will be subscriber-only. I anticipate that, come January 1998, I will stop ordering comics completely. Most subscribers, having gotten stubbornly lazy and impolite, tie up my cash flow too long for what is, ultimately, a net profit that wouldn't keep me in dog food.

Lest you think this is all sour grapes, fear not. Ironically, Claude's revenues and long-term outlook have never been brighter than they are now. Of course, none of my optimism concerning my business has anything to do with comics and related merchandise.

Rather, Claude's Comics is now doing business as Claude's Cigars. My website is now being devoted to cigars, not comics. My Yellow Pages advertising in 1998 will be listed under cigars, not comics. My entire advertising budget will be devoted to promoting Claude's Cigars, while I will be adver-



tising liquidation sales for all my comics and fixtures.

Sad that, after all my hard work, the machinations of an industry were able to do what no amount of more heavily seeded competitors were able to accomplish. But, as someone more concerned with remaining self-employed than being able to proudly proclaim that I hung in with comics until I was out of business, I'll be damned if I let others' poor and shortsighted business practices drag me down.

After three months of selling cigars, with absolutely zero dollars spent on

"After three months absolutely zero dollars spent on advertising, cigar sales have surpassed new-comics sales — something I've been toiling at for more than six years!"

advertising, cigar sales have surpassed new-comics sales — something I've been toiling at for more than six years!

There has continued to be much attrition of comics retailers in this area, with some stores closing after 15 years in business. Who am I to presume to do better as a mere sole proprietor against the stacked deck of our distribution system? If Dark Horse, Image, Marvel, DC, *et al.* think things have improved since the ominous cloud of exclusivity darkened our already dim skies, then I would have to ask for whom they have improved — and at whose expense?

I'm not too embarrassed to say that, after steadily losing money for many months, I would have closed my doors for good this summer, cigar sales being my salvation. After informally polling some of my comics subscribers who are now my cigar customers, approximately half stated that they would probably discontinue their comics buying if forced to go elsewhere. Thus, there will be a handful less readers for all those independent titles that struggle for every precious sale, in addition to lower sales on all the super-hero titles that are merely vehicles for promoting other merchandise at this point.

Now, I'm sure there will be many of you out there, smugly secure in your improved discount and favored status from your distributor, saying, "We don't need guys like you, anyway — just in it for a quick buck. If you're willing to give up so easily, you couldn't have been that committed,

anyway."

To those who would dismiss my warning and swan song, I offer no response. Those who know me and the kind of business I run, simply know better.

As I clear out dead comics inventory at liquidation prices to make room for the Foosball table, pool table, two dart boards, smoking lounge, TV area and buffet table, I choose to view my transition as a bit of entrepreneurial genius, giving myself a rare pat on the back for being flexible and savvy enough to find another hobby of mine at which I may

of selling cigars, with

be able to make a living.

I could go on and on about the travails of the industry, but you're either completely aware of what I'm talking about and going through — because you are in or near the same situation — or humming along quite successfully, completely indifferent to the effects the state of the industry will have on your business.

Even though this may be anathema to sound business philosophy, I believe that some in this industry will finally get what they want: fewer outlets in the direct market, with the publishers and distributors serving only those largest accounts, regardless of numerous geographical regions whose comics needs go unmet.

For me, the bottom line is this: This is a retailer-unfriendly industry with people in positions of power regarding industry-wide policy either too ignor-

ant or too unconcerned to be aware of wasted expenditures, misplaced ad campaigns, lack of service, the harmful effects of a *de facto* monopoly and other ill-conceived mandates that are contributing to the accelerated demise of many a comics retailer.

My suggestion to those who have seen their Marvel discount drop to 35%: Perhaps now is the time to explore magazine distributors and newsstand versions of comics. For me, however, it is abundantly clear that I will never again achieve a volume of sales on comics that will afford a net profit capable of coming close to supporting the store, let alone me. With other product selling well, my cash flow is better served elsewhere.

I could go on and on in this, my swan song. But, frankly, I have a large e-mail mailing list of cigar customers who are waiting for my weekly listserve of new arrivals (cigars, that is) and what the menu will be for this Thursday's cigar night (four different kinds of buffalo wings, honey ham and smoked turkey sandwich ring with tomatoes fresh from my garden, beer, booze, ice tea), good company, fun and more!

I wish everyone well and good luck and, in my own inimitable way, I will still be involved in this industry, so should anyone be interested in how to make the transition from failing comic-book store to successful store, and think I can help, please feel free to contact me or visit our website at www.ClaudesCigars.com. ♦

Humbly fortunate to have found something else at which to make a living,

— Claude the Wonderdog and Steve Ginsberg, Hatboro, Pa.



Brian Hibbs



Diamond during the strike *Three weeks of kudos — then chaos*

Let's start with some nice words.

I think that in the initial stages of the UPS strike, Diamond Comic Distributors worked hard to minimize the effects of the strike. I think that it did a very good job of making a very bad situation better. And I think it should be absolutely applauded for absorbing the significant costs in getting the comics out to drop points.

I actually expect nothing less, but they should be applauded, nonetheless.

Now, one can make a valid argument that the drop points were not a viable alternative for a great number

"In the initial stages of the UPS strike, Diamond Comic Distributors ... did a very good job of making a bad situation better."

of retailers (predominately more rural ones); or that Diamond could have been a little more efficient in contacting people, or dispensing information. But, all things considered, I think Diamond did a good job.

I had a debate with another retailer on CompuServe on this topic — one has to look at the capabilities of a system when one tries to find a reasonable course of action that system can take. What I mean by this is that this retailer suggested that Diamond should have run a physical truck route to each retailer's door. His position was not unreasonable (facing a 3+ hour drive each way to get the funny books is not exactly an appealing situation) but was unrealistic to implement.

For example, according to the February *Diamond Dialogue*, there are only 41 customer service representatives — one team leader and four phone reps and one field rep for each of the six distribution centers (Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Sparta) and the same without the field rep for "international." We've no firm statement for distribution personnel, but I think it is safe to assume that the numbers there might be a dozen per — figure there

might be at or around 75 warehouse workers domestically.

According to all reports, Diamond services approximately 4,000 accounts. If Diamond has customer service call every account, each of the 41 reps has to make about 100 phone calls. Assuming a mere five minutes a call, that's eight hours and 20 minutes. Dealing with busy signals or answering machines or whatever, plus human needs for rest and food, you have to figure Diamond is doing pretty darn good if they can get in touch with every customer within a day and a half. And I bet there are a few

accounts that they simply can't get in touch with.

How about routes? Let's even go nuts and think that only half of Diamond's accounts need delivery — if each truck can do 20 stops, they'd still need 100 trucks to do the job. Diamond is unlikely to have 100 employees who could legally drive a

"Sometimes we retailers can be a bit harsh on Diamond, and often for valid reasons, but it was totally 'stand-up' for Diamond to reverse a previously announced charge."

truck!

Even adding in credit and management, it is unlikely that many more than 150 people work for Diamond that come into direct contact with entering, pulling, or invoicing your comic books. That means that, on average, you have about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a person working for you! I think when you look at it in those terms, you can't help but conclude that, actually, it is pretty darn amazing that we ever get comics at all, let alone received them during a UPS strike.

So give them credit, people.

The game store down the block from me apparently got nothing dur-

ing the three weeks of the strike that it didn't go pick up from its distributors. That's gotta suck. All kinds of businesses were virtually shut down because they didn't have distributors who made and executed a plan.

I think we also need to applaud Diamond for absorbing the costs involved in these drop points. Now, they claim \$40,000 in expenses (and I don't think all of those could be pass-along expenses — I don't recall the number of drop-off points, but if it was 20 that's \$2,000 a point, which I just can't see) However, we have to acknowledge that it is still a very large amount of money — probably larger than the net profit of any single comic-book shop for an entire month.

Further, let's give Diamond a hand for absorbing that cost for the third time, after announcing a \$3 per box charge! Y'know, sometimes we retailers can be a bit harsh on Diamond and often for valid reasons, but you gotta admit that it was totally "stand-

up" for Diamond to reverse a previously announced charge.

Let's hope (knock wood) that such a thing doesn't happen any time again, but what could Diamond have done better?

1) Communicate the possibility of a strike, and the reaction to same much sooner. I happened to know the strike was coming, because I try to be friendly with our UPS driver(s). But Diamond didn't properly flag the strike until we were well into it. Diamond should have had notification about significant possibility of the strike in *Diamond Dateline* from the

Tilting at Windmills

week before, as well as an outline of the options that were available to us. Retailers were not given sufficient notice to warn their Wednesday customers from the previous week, nor were solid plans in our hand until the 11th hour.

2) Keep new comics day "as scheduled." It was terribly foolish after the first week to hold out for a Monday resolution of the strike before doing drop-off points. Realistically, holding "new comics day" until Thursday past the first week made no real sense — every retailer loses a day of sales, and there was little chance that UPS could have actually made the "right" delivery day.

It is that last point that makes me pig-biting mad.

Because I got stuffed by it.

As I say, Diamond deserves kudos during the strike. They have a realistically small and relatively inefficient system that is no longer structured to deal with anything except their standard UPS shipping that somehow managed to transcend their limitations to get the majority of their customers weekly product with a minimum of errors. It is *after* the strike that Diamond deserves to have their asses kicked.

UPS was backed up. Not only did it have the majority of the material in the system from when the striking workers walked off the job, but the moment the strike ended, shippers dropped huge volumes of material immediately into the system, trying to get themselves on schedule. Coupling that with the natural tendency of people to gear back up slowly, it is very difficult to believe that UPS would be back to full efficiency for something near an equal of amount of time after the strike.

To immediately ship the next week's shipment via UPS was a rookie move. Diamond had the responsibility to ensure that their announced shipping plans would work.

To be fair, UPS has supposedly assured Diamond of "90%+" capability. But to this pair of jaded eyes what that says is they are at 10% incapability.

That's too much.

Anything less than 99% capacity is not sufficient.

As I understand it, a significant

portion of U.S. comics retailers didn't get their delivery on Wednesday, as due. In the Bay Area most retailers got partial shipments on Thursday and received the balance the next day. This was apparently not an unusual circumstance, though I'm loath to say much without any statistics. As it was relayed to me, however, 66 retailers did not receive all of their product as of Friday. With the Labor Day holiday that means none of these retailers would get that product until the following Tuesday. At the earliest.

I know. I was one of them.

I'm glad to say we finally got the comics today, Wednesday — a full week after they were scheduled. Hopefully, so have the rest of the 66.

Why am I mad? During the strike, I spent a fair amount of time on the phone with Diamond suggesting several times that UPS could not possibly be up to speed in time to guarantee shipping — that drop points should be continued where ever feasible.

Diamond was not enamored of the

"UPS was backed up... it is difficult to believe that UPS would be back to full efficiency after the strike ended. To immediately ship the next week's shipment via UPS was a rookie move."

idea. Diamond would not seriously consider it.

I understand this, but I'm just sick of getting caught in the barrel.

I've grown amazingly tired that the retailer has no recourse, has no power, has no say and has no ability to change any of this.

There are times I believe with passion and fervor that we can (and do) make substantial changes when we use our voice, but then there are times (like this week) where I feel as though it doesn't really matter because the rules of the game are against us from moment one.

If you don't receive your comics shipment by the weekend, you should immediately have as much of it filled as possible by overnight shipping, as well as have it be fully returnable in a month. Is it reasonable to expect someone to pay full shipping when the product takes days to arrive? These seem to me to be sensible, prudent and no-brainer ideas, but when one asks about any of these things, the

answer always comes back as, "We haven't thought about that yet."

Well, I sure have, and, seeing as how some sort of shipping problem must logically happen for at least one retailer a week, I bloody well expect to see policies in place before it happens to me. Or you.

Diamond is pretty darn good when it comes to "big picture" issues, like setting smooth drop-points in place. But it sometime feels as though, when it comes to individual decisions ("In what manner do we fix this situation?"), they usually bobble the ball.

I wish I knew how to change this. I wish I could find the magic wand to wave and make Diamond and the brokered publishers see how they needed to take into account the individual needs of the individual retailers before they make the decisions that affect me.

But I fear that the leading cause of retailer burnout is not late books or bad comics or too much retail or

whatever — it is the reaction (or lack thereof) of those "powers that be" that causes the burnout. I've never been closer to actually entertaining the notion of "Well, screw this — I don't need the headache for the pittance I make" than I was in the face of "We'll see what we can do." See this!

Once, just once, I would like to wake up to a phone call of, "We've been tracking your books, and we don't think you're gonna get them, so we've already started pulling you replacements, and you can reduce this week's shipping bill by \$50" — or at least something in the same vein. "You are important to us, and here is how we're going to show you."

Because deeds are more important than words. ♦

Brian Hibbs owns Comix Experience and loves to read mail. 305 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA, 94117, or fax at (415) 863-9299 or e-mail to comixexperience@compuserve.com.

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Greg Stump

Nov. 23, 1997 — For those of you who haven't heard, the U.S. Justice Department is in the process of investigating comics distribution, specifically Diamond, for possible anti-trust violations.

In researching this story for the *Journal*, I was surprised to find that those who have been critical of Diamond and generally frustrated with the current distribution scenario are reluctant to wish down any kind of recriminations on the distributor. This is doubly ironic in light of the significant amount of people, particularly retailers, that seem to have at least a back-of-the-mind fear about the potential Diamond has — given the lack of alternative distribution options — to issue reprisals of some kind against those who anger the distributor.

For Diamond's critics, the notion of a Department of Justice Investigation is something of a Catch-22. On the one hand, they want to see some kind of change in the market that would help create alternative distribution paths in the market. On the other hand, all of the outfits that would seem capable of filling that role went out of business following the exclusivity wars. So, hoping for some kind of penalty issued by the Justice Department may be kind of self-defeating for Diamond critics. The distributor has shown itself to be one of the few accounts that publishers can rely on for consistent, regular payments. And almost everyone who discussed the investigation with the *Journal* expressed concerns about the consequences for the entire industry if the stability of Diamond is threatened by lawsuits or monetary penalties (none of which, it should be pointed out, is known at this time to have been instigated against the distributor).

Of course, one outcome of the investigation that might appease Diamond critics without posing a substantial threat to Diamond would be a court order — as the result either of the investigation or a civil suit against Diamond — to change certain anti-competitive business practices. For example, the federal investigators could simply rule that the exclusive agreements with the big publishers serve to unfairly lessen competition, and that the contracts should be considered null and void. This would not be immediately threatening for Diamond because the exclusive publishers would most likely still rely on Diamond; the big publishers aren't going to sell to someone they don't want to sell to if there are concerns about their reliability. But for those who want a distribution alternative, it will be there for them — and some small distributor might slowly gain enough credibility and volume capacity to provide a legitimate challenge for Diamond down the road.

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Greg Stump is the news editor of The Comics Journal, and the Bishop of the web site. He is the finest wrestling cartoonist in North America. E-mail him at stump@tcj.com.

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In article <34735A2F.1843@muscanet.com>, W Lee or T Beatty <wlee@muscanet.com> writes:

>ComixAce wrote:
>>
>> Lea wrote:
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>> >>The "I'll look for it" thing is beginning to make me nuts! Folks, if you
>> want **comics** to survive, if you want them available for you when they
>> come out--PREORDER.
>>
>> Lea, although I echo your sentiments, in some respects the fact **comics** can
>no
>> longer be viable on the newsstand but must be preordered in order to
>survive
>> is yet another secho of the bell tolling. I got slammed here a while ago
>> suggesting that a lot of **comics** would be just as well distributed as "mail
>> art", however (and I don't mean to judge CATHEDRAL in any way shape or
>form,
>> I'm talking gerneralities) having to order stuff from a catalog isn't much
>> different!
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>It also doesn't help that preordering your **comics** does not guarantee
>you're gonna get 'em. Between books being late/cancelled, sloppiness at
>some point in the distribution system and at the retail level -- a whole
>lot of pre-ordered **comics** never make it into the customer's hands... I
>consider myself lucky if I get seven out of ten items I order through my
>shop of choice (and I know the shop is doing its best to serve me).
>
>Example: my shop has attempted to order a currently-in-print book (that
>has been featured in Previews several times) for me THREE times -- they
>have yet to get a copy after six months of trying. Why? The publisher
>and author certainly would like to sell it to me -- the shop would like
>to sell it -- I'd like to buy it -- but someone at the distribution
>level can't be bothered to take one of the shelf and put it in a box
>along with the other books/mags/toys. etc. heading to this particular
>shop.

Terry, have you written a letter of complaint to the DOJ to

add to their **antitrust** investigation of Diamond? Your being both a creator and a customer sounds like a perfect opportunity for them to see the problem from two important perspectives at once.

-- Rob Jensen -- waiting for the return of Ms. Tree
=====

"Enlightenment can only be achieved through studious contemplation of male pattern baldness."

-- from the 'Tao Te Kojak'

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Article 1 of exactly 10

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Subject: Re: [DISCUSSION] Overstreet Finally Wakes Up
From: shutuprob@aol.com (ShutUpRob)
Date: 1997/11/22
Message-ID: <19971122130000.IAA21698@ladder01.news.aol.com>
Newsgroups: rec.arts.comics.misc
[\[More Headers\]](#)

In article <3474FB70.82126606@pop.erols.com>, Mike Zarlenga
<zarlenga@pop.erols.com> writes:

>Overstreet has not been the same since
>Geppi bought it and there still is not a truly independent source of prices.
>Maybe that is why the **Justice Department** is investigating the Geppi empire
>for anti-trust violations.

Very good point. I had forgotten that Geppi owns Overstreet through Gemstone now. Geppi is a publisher, a distributor, a retailer, and a price guide compiler. And that's too many of the eggs of this industry and artform in one basket.

-- Rob Jensen

=====

"Independent **comic** book universes and incompatible computer OSes exist so that people who might not have a strong theological belief system can still be self-righteous and clannish."

-- Todd VerBeek

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Subject: Re: [DISCUSSION] Overstreet Finally Wakes Up
From: rmholley@mmmm.com (R M Holley)
Date: 1997/11/24
Message-ID: <3479877C.31C2@mmmm.com>
Newsgroups: rec.arts.comics.marketplace
[\[More Headers\]](#)

just two cents ...

I know a few Overstreet employees and have worked with them and discussed these issues several times. First of all, remember that a comic is worth what you will pay. And above all else, read the stuff, that's what it's for.

The price updates normally had 30 or so advisors that would send in evaluations of the market. Take into account that we are talking about a worldwide market and it is very difficult to say what a book is doing everywhere in one price guide. And yes, you would be fooling yourself if you thought that some adjustments weren't made for "editors preferences.

Today's guide was compiled from over 400 dealers over a period of three months, not the usual 30. This update tried to actually reflect the current market.

Also, the **Justice Department** is not investigating "the Geppi empire". Yes, they were visited by the government at the instigation of Wizard for anti-trust, but no violations were found. Geppi insisted that all employees cooperate fully with the investigation and provide any information requested. When Overstreet and Carter were asked about how pricing was generated, were they issuing prices at Geppi's request, they responded truthfully - no. That the prices given in the Guide were actual marketplace prices as reported by actual retailers and collectors of the comics. The investigation was then dropped.

later
richard

Opinions expressed herein are my own and may not represent those of my employer.



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Subject: Re: [DISCUSSION] Overstreet Finally Wakes Up
From: spectre52@aol.com (Spectre52)
Date: 1997/11/24
Message-ID: <19971124152400.KAA15673@ladder02.news.aol.com>
Newsgroups: rec.arts.comics.marketplace
[\[More Headers\]](#)

>Keep in mind that Overstreet is owned by Geppi. And Geppi owns Diamond
>Distributing. Diamond only distributes new books so it loves when a new book
>gets hot and there are reorders and so Wizards monthly publication is great
>for
>him. However, Geppi also owns comic book retail stores and has made quite
>alot
>of money on back issues. Bet that Geppi will be buying "formerly" hot silver
>age books at 50% of there guide price (and they do not give you 50% of Wizard
>when you go into the store) and holding them until "magically" the price goes
>up
>in Overstreet issued in a few years. Overstreet has not been the same since
>Geppi bought it and there still is not a truly independent source of prices.
>Maybe that is why the Justice Department is investigating the Geppi empire
>for
>anti-trust violations.

Oh boy. Okay, now that the pot's been stirred... First of all, I can say that I've met Steve Geppi, and I know how he's running the Overstreet. Bob is still completely in control of pricing and Geppi does not take part in it. There is a select group of people who physically change the prices, and those prices are based on hoards of info from dealers nationwide. There is no way Steve Geppi is hiking up prices for his own benefit. Sit down with last year's guide and this year's guide and compare increases. 99% of the books did not go up more than 10%. And that's the way it's always been! This is to maintain a healthy market, which Wizard has made unhealthily with there shotgun approach to price hiking. Besides, Geppi is making millions off of his distribution. (I don't think he even owns those stores anymore, and if he did, well, all of you shop owners out there think he's turning a huge profit on those back issues he's hiking the price up on???) His "collection", while earning modest gains every year, is yeilding peanuts compared to his distribution. (Speaking of collections, boy, does he have one...This is just rumor, but 3 or 4 Marvel #1's in NM...,etc,etc,ad nauseum) No, Geppi is a forthright businessman, as far as I'm concerned, but a very VERY shrewd one. No less shrewd than you would expect from someone running a multi-MULTI million dollar business.

Matt Nelson

p.s. I guess his run of Night Nurse just took a big jump in the update...That son-of-a-bitch! That no good price hiking **comic** snortin' high folutin' funny book distributor!



307 diamonds,

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DATE OF REQUEST: 10/27/97

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1997 WL 6620202

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Thursday, October 23, 1997

ARTS & LIVING

ON COMICS

MARVEL TONES DOWN BOOKS FOR WAL-MART

Mike Sangiacomo

Send questions or comments to On Comics, Mike Sangiacomo, The Plain Dealer, 1801 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114. Or e-mail to: mikesang@aol.com

Marvel Comics is on the verge of signing a deal to put its comics into all Wal-Mart outlets.

Wal-Mart recently banned all comics from its stores because of one depicting a severed head. I don't know which company put it out, but it was enough to chill Wal-Mart to all comics. Wal-Mart wouldn't say who published it, but I do know it was not one of Marvel's.

A spokesman for Marvel said that to get into the Wal-Mart stores, Marvel has agreed to self-censor its books.

This troubles me. If Marvel executives had, on their own accord, decided to tone down the sex and violence in their comics, I would applaud them. Then it would have been done because it was something they felt was right. But to do so to sell more books smacks of submission.

Maybe it's just the writer in me that bristles at censorship. But then again, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby didn't need sex and violence to write great comics. So maybe this really won't be so bad.

Except that no one is sure just what this self-censorship means or how far it will go.

We know that nudity is out, but what about suggestive sexual situations? There have been some exceptional Marvel stories (Typhoid Mary in "Daredevil" comes to mind) where the sexuality of the character was key to the story. For that matter, what about Daredevil's girlfriend and her sordid past as a junkie and porn star? Would that story line ever have been written under

the Wal-Mart's rules?

Excessive violence is out, and that's not necessarily bad. I really get tired of the gore in a lot of comics, but I will fight to the death for the right of anyone with bad enough taste to read it. And what constitutes "excessive violence"? Where will Marvel brass draw the line?

Let's talk about Satan, hell, devils and demons. No, not in our stores, Wal-Mart says. There will be no references to the netherworld in the new Marvel. The proposed "Satana, Daughter of the Devil" series was canceled, even before the first issue came out. What about "Ghost Rider," a demon from hell? Don't expect him to be around much longer.

Lastly, any sexuality referred to had better be hetero. Marvel Vice President Shirrel Rhoads said homosexuality is gone from Marvel.

"At least we won't be exploring it in any stories," he said. "I suppose a character can be homosexual [like Alpha Flight's Northstar], but it won't be addressed."

Hmmm. Sounds like "don't ask, don't tell" to me.

So where does it end? Will everyone at Marvel be Disneyfying the books to the point of pablum?

"Not at all," Rhoads said. "Marvel has always pretty much stuck to this type of writing. And we will still be distributing some comics through the direct market [like comic shops] only."

But which titles? It's not like Marvel will release the X-Men titles in "G" and "R" versions. So where will they draw the line? Rhoads said they are considering an adult line of creator-owned comics, which may be more adult-oriented. There is even talk of reviving the Epic line, which catered to adults. The problem with the last Epic line was that most of the titles stunk.

Rhoads said getting into Wal-Mart would give Marvel a valuable chunk of the market - kids.

"We see this as a way to introduce a whole new line of comics to young children, ages 6 to 9," Rhoads said. "We have a new line of 'Marvel Kids' comics coming, beginning in March. For example, a title might be the adventures of the Fantastic Four, but written from the viewpoint of Franklin [the 7-year-old son of Mr. Fantastic and the Invisible Woman]."

There is a great need for children's comics, but they don't have to come at the expense of the comics for teens and adults.

Marvel can have it both ways with careful planning. Set aside a score of G-rated comics for Wal-Mart, but leave the rest of the line alone.

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

EDITION: FINAL / ALL

Word Count: 673

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DATE AND TIME PRINTING ENDED: 10/27/97 03:39:14 pm (Central)

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NUMBER OF REQUESTS IN GROUP: 1

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END*

(b)(7)c

DEPT. OF JUSTICE
ANTITRUST DIVISION
RECEIVED

27 October, 1997

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Dear Mr. Villa,

CIVIL TA 64
It was a pleasure talking with you this morning. I do hope that though-out my fast talking babble you found something of use. I have enclosed a few things that I hope you might find of interest. First off is a copy of our newest catalog that you requested. I also included a sample of one of earlier catalogs so you can see how they have grown and evolved over the last year.

I have also enclosed a sales report that I get from (b)(7)c

(b)(7)c It is just for your information as to what is selling and what percent each publisher has of the market. I think this also shows one of the main reasons it is difficult for a new distributor to get into today's market, of the top 200 selling titles a new distributor would (and this includes us) only be able to sell 17 of them. The other 183 titles are tied up in exclusive deals. Thus why we went after the broadest product range we could, because it is difficult to make a living off the small publishers. Also, I spoke it over with (b)(7)c and he thinks that comic books are closer to 70% of our business. I think that is a fair evaluation. Also, for the record, I am (b)(7)c

I mention this because I know the Dunn and Bradstreet has it wrong.

I also thought of a retailer, who also is a publisher, who has been having a number of problems with Diamond. In fact I thing he is closing his store due to these problems. His name is (b)(7)c and his number is (b)(7)c (b)(7)c I am sure he can give you all kinds of stories (based on what he has told me).

Also, the number for (b)(7)c

I hope all of this helps you in whatever direction you decide to go in. If I can be of any more help please feel free to call me at (b)(7)c

Sincerely,

(b)(7)c

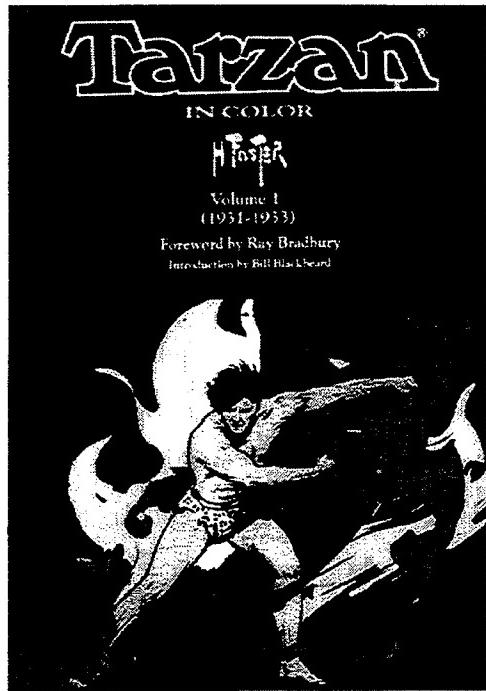
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Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Description				

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

9705-0001 **Cerebus** 218 \$2.25 55%
Guys. Part 18 of 19.

AC COMICS

9705-0002 **AC Comics Index** 14 \$2.95 45%
The final installment in Fernforce history by Ken Kerouac. Covers issues 93-100.

9705-0003 [R] **Black Phantom** [Re-Listed] 2 \$2.50 45%
The first time the Red Mask met the Black Phantom. Also 2 Frank Bolle stories.

9705-0004 [R] **Fernforce** [Re-Listed] 68 \$2.95 45%
"Spellbound" Art by Greg Horn who now does ESPERS for Image. Color.

9705-0005 [R] **Fernforce** [Re-Listed] 69 \$2.95 45%
"She Cat Possessed" Color.

9705-0006 [R] **Fernforce** [Re-Listed] 70 \$2.95 45%
"Island out of Time". Also a Cat-Man story by Dick Ayers. Color.

9705-0007 [R] **Further Adventures of Nyoka** 3 \$2.25 45%
A mix of all new stories along with Nyoka stories from the past. B/W.

9705-0008 [R] **Further Adventures of Nyoka** 4 \$2.25 45%
A mix of all new stories along with Nyoka stories from the past. B/W.

9705-0009 [R] **Golden Age Greats (tpb)** 8 \$11.95 35%
"Fighting Females Fight Back". Phantom Lady, Miss Victory, Miss Masque, Senorita Rio.

9705-0010 [R] **Good Girl Art Quarterly** 8 \$3.95 45%
Special "Betty Page" look-a-like issue. Also Yankee Girl, Phantom Lady X and Matt Baker's Sky Girl.

9705-0011 [R] **Good Girl Art Quarterly** 13 \$3.95 45%
Matt Baker and Bill Ward reprints plus a new Fernforce story.

9705-0012 [R] **Good Girl Art Quarterly** 14 \$3.95 45%
Matt Baker and Bill Ward reprints plus a new Fernforce story.

9705-0013 [R] **Great American Western** 2 \$2.95 45%
Art by Frank Boyle, Bob Powell, and John Severin.

9705-0014 **Miss Victory Retro Comics** 1 \$5.95 35%
A brand new Ms. Victory story by Bill Black as well as a golden age classic. Also the return of Mysticman.

**ALTERNATIVE PRESS**

9705-0015 **Spectacles** 2 \$2.95 50%
The new series by Jon Lewis continues. This month it is the first day of spring and our hero's sunny mood is quickly ruined.

AMAZE INK/SLAVE LABOR

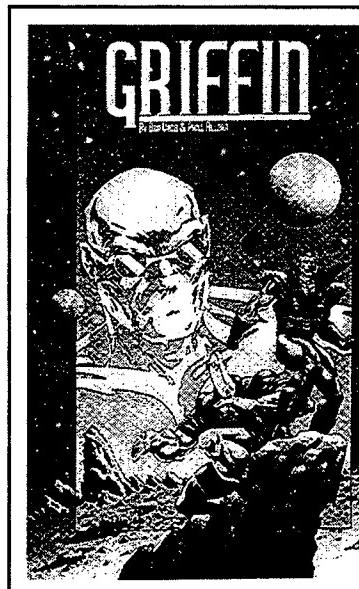
9705-0016 **Action Girl Comics** 11 \$2.75 50%
An anthology book by women. Art by Amanda Lewis, Sarah Dyer, Leslee Parker, Chris Tobey, and Patty Leidy.

9705-0017 [R] **Bill the Clown** [Re-Listed] 2 \$2.50 50%
This killer clown still around. Dan Vado and Troy Nixey.

9705-0018 [R] **Bill the Clown** [Re-Listed] 3 \$2.95 50%
This killer clown still around. Dan Vado and Troy Nixey.

9705-0019 [R] **Dork (Re-Listed)** 3 \$2.75 50%
Evan Dorkin's anthology is still available. In this issue *Milk and Cheese*.

9705-0020 **The Griffin** 1 \$2.95 50%
The long awaited sequel to the DC series. Written by Dan Vado and drawn by Phil Allora.



9705-0021 **Johnny the Homicidal Maniac** 6 \$2.95 45%
This hit series is back in a second printing. A cult favorite with a growing audience.

9705-0022 **Johnny the Homicidal Maniac** 7 \$2.95 45%
This hit series is back in a second printing. A cult favorite with a growing audience.

9705-0023 **Johnny the Homicidal Maniac Poster** 2 \$9.95 40%
A full color poster of the cover of issue #3. 24" x 36".

9705-0024 **Lust for Life** 2 \$2.95 50%
Two new stories by Jeff LeVine. Includes a story about a trip to a Simon and Garfunkel concert and sex.

9705-0025 [R] **Mister Blank** [Re-Listed] 0 \$1.75 50%
This first 16 page issue is still available.

9705-0026 **Mister Blank** 2 \$1.75 50%
Working Sam Stiff is neck-deep in trouble. Written and drawn by Christopher Hicks.

9705-0027 **Monster: Vampire Love** 1 \$2.95 50%
A brand new series from the creators of the twisted but great KILLER FLY series. By Butler/Hogg.

<u>9705-0028</u>	Murder Can be Fun	5	\$2.95	50%
<i>It's another issue of "Celebrity Mishaps". This is a resolicitation. All other orders are cancelled.</i>				
<u>9705-0029</u>	Skeleton Key	23	\$1.75	45%
<i>The single issue stories continue. A great starting point for new readers. Written and drawn by Andi Watson.</i>				
<u>9705-0030</u>	[R] Skeleton Key [Re-Listed]	11	\$1.75	50%
<i>These earlier issues are now available at a better discount.</i>				
<u>9705-0031</u>	[R] Skeleton Key [Re-Listed]	12	\$1.75	50%
<i>These earlier issues are now available at a better discount.</i>				
<u>9705-0032</u>	[R] Skeleton Key [Re-Listed]	14	\$1.75	50%
<i>These earlier issues are now available at a better discount.</i>				
<u>9705-0033</u>	[R] Skeleton Key [Re-Listed]	15	\$1.75	50%
<i>These earlier issues are now available at a better discount.</i>				
<u>9705-0034</u>	[R] Skeleton Key [Re-Listed]	16	\$1.75	50%
<i>These earlier issues are now available at a better discount.</i>				
<u>9705-0035</u>	[R] Skeleton Key [Re-Listed]	17	\$1.75	50%
<i>These earlier issues are now available at a better discount.</i>				
<u>9705-0036</u>	Slacker Comics Annual	14	\$2.95	50%
<i>It's a smorgasbord of Slacker's slickest wit. Written and drawn by Doug Slack.</i>				



<u>9705-0037</u>	The Waiting Place	1	\$2.95	50%
<i>"Just a Sentimental Old Love Story." The saga of Scott Forbes at the video stores continues.</i>				

ANDREWS AND McMEEL

<u>9705-0038</u>	Dilbert: Fugitive from the Cubical Police	\$12.95	40%	
<i>This best seller is still going strong!</i>				
<u>9705-0039</u>	Far Side: The Last Chapter and Worse	\$9.95	40%	
<i>The final FAR SIDE strips plus 13 new strips never before seen.</i>				
<u>9705-0040</u>	Over the Hedge	2	\$9.95	40%
<i>A new collection of strips by Michael Fry and T. Lewis. A popular strip featuring very nice art.</i>				
<u>9705-0041</u>	Strange Days: The Year in Weirdness	2	\$9.95	40%
<i>A collection of weird and fun facts from the editors of Fortean Times.</i>				

ANTARCTIC PRESS

<u>9705-0042</u>	Box Office Poison Super Special	1	\$4.95	50%
<i>60 pages of never-before-seen material from Alex Robinson. A great intro for new readers.</i>				

<u>9705-0043</u>	Crimson Nun [Of 4]	1	\$2.95	50%
<i>A new series tied into the Warrior Nun Universe. Full color. Brian Farrens/Bobby Diaz/Kelsey Shannon. Bi-Monthly.</i>				

<u>9705-0044</u>	Girls of Ninja High School 1997	\$3.95	50%
<i>56 pages spotlighting the various girls from the world of Ninja High School. B/W.</i>			

<u>9705-0045</u>	[A,R] Gorgon	2	\$3.50	50%
<i>This adults-only series by Chouji Maboroshi is still available.</i>				

<u>9705-0046</u>	[A,R] Gorgon	3	\$2.95	50%
<i>This adults-only series by Chouji Maboroshi is still available.</i>				

<u>9705-0047</u>	[A,R] Gorgon	4	\$2.95	50%
<i>This adults-only series by Chouji Maboroshi is still available.</i>				

<u>9705-0048</u>	[A,R] Gorgon	5	\$2.95	50%
<i>This adults-only series by Chouji Maboroshi is still available.</i>				

<u>9705-0049</u>	Hanna	2	\$2.95	50%
<i>The second issue of this series from the creator of CELL. Derek Kirk. B/W.</i>				

<u>9705-0050</u>	Helter Skelter	0	\$2.95	50%
<i>A brand new manga tale of magic, fantasy, romance, and humor by Mike Harris and Duc Tran. B/W.</i>				

<u>9705-0051</u>	[M] Hepcats	6	\$2.95	50%
<i>SNOWBLIND: Part 4. Straight, No Chaser. Written and drawn by Martin Wagner. B/W.</i>				

<u>9705-0052</u>	Hitomi II: Geohammer	10	\$3.95	50%
<i>The final issue of Hitomi and her Girl Commandos is finally here. NHS spin-off by Dave Wilson.</i>				

<u>9705-0053</u>	Luftwaffe 1946	3	\$2.95	50%
<i>Part three of LUFTSTRUM. The German "kamikazes". B/W. By Ben Dunn and Ted Nomura.</i>				

<u>9705-0054</u>	Ninja High School	57	\$2.95	50%
<i>The final to the NHS/Gold Digger crossover by Fred Perry.</i>				

<u>9705-0055</u>	[A] No No UFO [Adult]	2	\$2.95	50%
<i>More weird and wacky sex fantasies by Det Aruman. This issue is called "Mad Sisters: Temple of Sex Part 1".</i>				

<u>9705-0056</u>	Robotech	2	\$2.95	50%
<i>This new full color series based on one of the most popular anime series ever continues. Fred Perry, Ben Dunn, others.</i>				

<u>9705-0057</u>	Shotgun Mary Action Figure	\$9.95	20%
<i>Figure is five inches tall with 5-points articulation, removable sunglasses, and a shotgun and .45 accessories.</i>			

<u>9705-0058</u>	Warrior Nun Holy White Action Figure	\$9.95	20%
<i>Same design as the original Warrior Nun doll except it she has an all white costume. 4 1/2 inches tall. Articulated.</i>			

<u>9705-0059</u>	Warrior/Shotgun Figure Variant Case Pack	\$59.70	20%
<i>Three Shotgun Mary's, 2 Warrior Nun Whites, and a variant Shotgun Mary available only in this case pack. Limited!</i>			

ARCHANGEL ENTERTAINMENT

<u>9705-0060</u>	Groo: The Game	\$16.95	50%
<i>Now you to can act like an idiot as you try to avoid the dreaded Groo. A card game that is great fun.</i>			

<u>9705-0061</u>	Groo: The Game Display	\$101.70	50%
<i>A case of trouble.</i>			

Code Description	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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ART AND SOUL COMICS

9705-0062 **Tug and Buster** 6 \$2.95 50%
The newest issue by Mark Hempel. Bonus, for every 10 issues ordered you will get a s/n limited Tug & Buster Print.

ATTENTION PUBLISHING

9705-0063 **Dr. Cyborg** 3 \$2.95 50%
A tale of the present influenced by the past, featuring Robots. By Allan Gross, Mark Wheatley, Marc Hempel.

9705-0064 **Dr. Cyborg Paranoia Pack** 1 \$4.95 50%
A chance to get the first two issues of this series. At least one issue is signed.

BLACK EYE PRODUCTIONS

9705-0065 **Magic Boy Does Laundry** 1 \$3.25 40%
It's a hard copy of the popular on-line comic by James Kochalka. 9" x 5". 48 pages.

9705-0066 **[R, M] GirlHero** 4 \$2.95 45%
By Megan Kelso. Magazine size.

9705-0067 **[R, M] GirlHero** 5 \$2.95 45%
By Megan Kelso.

9705-0068 **[R, M] GirlHero** 6 \$2.95 45%
By Megan Kelso. Comic size.

BOLT

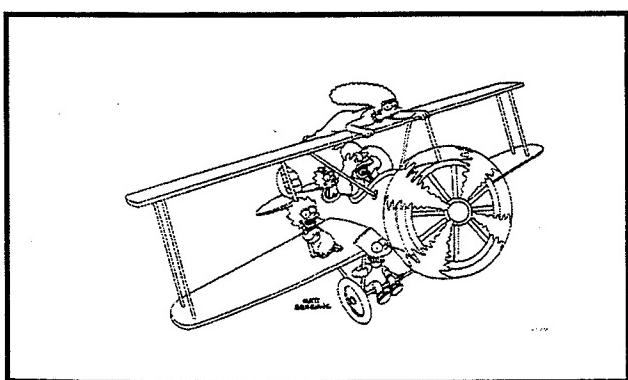
9705-0069 **Warrior Nun Areala Premium Cards** \$37.93 0%
A brand new cards set based on the best selling books from Antarctic Press. 32 packs per box. 10 boxes per case. 90 cards plus chase cards.

9705-0070 **Warrior Nun Areala Premium Cards Binder** \$11.25 0%
A binder to keep the 90 card set in plus the chase cards.

BONGO COMICS GROUP

9705-0071 **Simpsons Wing Ding Collection** \$11.95 50%
A new collection of Simpson's mishaps. Five full length stories. All of your favorites, Bart, Apu and Principle Skinner.

9705-0072 **[R] Simpsons Comics Extravaganza** \$10.00 50%
Now is the time top stock up on these best selling collections of the earlier Simpson comics.



9705-0073 **[R] Simpsons Comics Spectacular** \$10.00 50%
Now is the time top stock up on these best selling collections of the earlier Simpson comics.

9705-0074 **[R] Simpsons Comics Simpsorama** \$10.95 50%
Now is the time top stock up on these best selling collections of the earlier Simpson comics.

9705-0075 **[R] Simpsons Comics Strike Back** \$10.95 50%
Now is the time top stock up on these best selling collections of the earlier Simpson comics.

9705-0076 **[R] Bartman: The Best of Bartman** \$10.00 50%
Now is the time top stock up on these best selling collections of the earlier Simpson comics.

CALIBER

9705-0077 **Bandy Man Autographed Set** 1 \$8.95 45%
The complete set from the writer of the X-Files comic and it is signed by Stephen Petruca.

9705-0078 **Cavewoman** 7 \$2.95 50%
It's the return of the carnivorous killer by Bud Root. This book consistently sells out, give it a try.

9705-0079 **[R] Cavewoman** 3 \$2.95 50%
A new printing. (See what we said in the previous description)

9705-0080 **[R] Cavewoman** 4 \$2.95 50%
A new printing. (See what we said in the previous description)

9705-0081 **Caliber Spotlight 97** 1 \$2.95 50%
A 64 page special issue showcasing the Caliber line for 1997. All kinds of great information.

9705-0082 **Caliber Rounds Vol. 8** 5 \$1.00 0%
For the monthly scoop on Caliber's releases.

9705-0083 **Caliber Monthly Promo Pack** \$1.00 0%
For retailers only.

9705-0084 **Daemonstorm The Stormwalker** 1 \$3.95 50%
Cassian and Kiri's inter-dimensional trip finally comes to an end. And all is not well. By Joe Martin and Craig Brasfield.

9705-0085 **High Caliber** 3 \$3.95 50%
The three stories from issue two continues. Stories by Gary Reed, Bradley Walton, Jim Schumaker and others.

9705-0086 **High Caliber Signed Edition** 1 \$3.95 50%
Signed by at least one of the creators at no extra cost.

9705-0087 **[R] Kabuki: Skin Deep** 1 \$2.95 50%
The first color issue is still available in limited quantities.

9708-0088 **Kabuki: Skin Deep Poster** 2 \$5.95 40%
A beautiful 17" x 22 full-color poster combines the two covers of Kabuki Skin Deep #2. Art by Alex Ross and David Mack.

9705-0089 **Kilroy Daemonstorm** 1 \$2.95 50%
Deep in the heart of New Orleans during Mardi Gras a murderer is loose and Kilroy must stop him. Plus Kiri and Cassian are on hand.

9705-0090 **Kilroy is Here Collector's pack** 1 \$14.95 45%
Here are 21 issues of this excellent series in one collectors pack. Added plus is the price.

9705-0091 **Koas Moon (2nd printing)** 1 \$2.95 50%
This sold out book returns in a second printing.

9705-0092 **Legendlore Realm War Boller Cover** 1 \$2.95 50%
So begins the story that this series has been building towards, as all out war is about to break out in the Realm.

9705-0093 **Legendlore Realm War Xavier Cover** 1 \$2.95 50%
This issue has a cover by regular artist Philip Xavier.

<u>9705-0094</u>	Lost [Of 4]	4	\$2.95	50%
<i>The dramatic conclusion to this very different take on the Peter Pan saga.</i>				
<u>9705-0095</u>	[R] Lost [Of 4]	1	\$2.95	50%
<i>In case you missed out, here are early issues of the Peter Pan saga retold.</i>				
<u>9705-0096</u>	[R] Lost [Of 4]	2	\$2.95	50%
<i>In case you missed out, here are early issues of the Peter Pan saga retold.</i>				
<u>9705-0097</u>	[R] Lost [Of 4]	3	\$2.95	50%
<i>In case you missed out, here are early issues of the Peter Pan saga retold.</i>				
<u>9705-0098</u>	Lost Cloisonné Pin		\$6.95	45%
<i>A new pin inspired by this series and the original Peter Pan saga by Jay Geldhof.</i>				
<u>9705-0099</u>	Negative Burn	47	\$3.95	50%
<i>This award winning anthology continues. Included in this issue are stories by Brian Bolland, Paul Jenkins, and others.</i>				
<u>9705-0100</u>	New Worlds Collectors Pack	1	\$18.95	45%
<i>All six issues of this great science fiction series are collected into one pack and offered at a special price.</i>				
<u>9705-0101</u>	Oz: Straw and Sorcery	3	\$2.95	50%
<i>The conclusion to this mini-series inspired by the classic Wizard of Oz.</i>				
<u>9705-0102</u>	Oz: Lion Cloisonné Pin		\$6.95	45%
<i>A beautiful cloisonné pin by Bill Bryan.</i>				
<u>9705-0103</u>	Raven Chronicles: Heart of the Dragon	1	\$2.95	50%
<i>A true haunted house story by Mark Chadbourne and Mark Bloodworth. Special one-shot issue.</i>				
<u>9705-0104</u>	Raven Chronicles Starter Pack		\$3.95	50%
<i>A set of three comics for an unbelievable low price. Each issue is a self-contained story.</i>				
<u>9705-0105</u>	Red Diary Regular Cover	1	\$3.95	50%
<i>The story behind Marilyn Monroe's mysterious red diary comes to light, and there are a lot of people who don't want them to.</i>				
<u>9705-0106</u>	Red Diary Deluxe Cover	1	\$6.95	45%
<i>A special enhanced cover signed by at least two of the creators.</i>				
<u>9705-0107</u>	Rib	1	\$2.95	50%
<i>The critically acclaimed self-published title moves to Caliber. This issue has the complete original first issue as well as 20 new pages.</i>				
<u>9705-0108</u>	Saint Germaine Regular Edition	3	\$2.95	50%
<i>Saint Germaine's past comes to light. By Gary Reed and Vincent (DEADWORLD) Locke.</i>				
<u>9705-0109</u>	Saint Germaine Signed Edition	1	\$2.95	50%
<i>A signed edition of the above issue.</i>				
<u>9705-0110</u>	Thundergod Special	1	\$2.95	50%
<i>This hot series formally published by Crusade comes to Caliber with an all new story.</i>				
<u>9705-0111</u>	Wordsmith 99 cent Special		\$0.99	50%
<i>Here is a great chance to try this excellent series. At \$.99 an issue you can't go wrong.</i>				
<u>9705-0112</u>	Boondoggle Special Signed Edition	1	\$2.95	50%
<i>The Boondoggle special is now available signed at the same low price.</i>				
<u>9705-0113</u>	Dreamwalker	3	\$2.95	50%
<i>Just as Karen thinks she has the Dreamwalker experience sorted out, something changes dramatically. Excellent series.</i>				
<u>9705-0114</u>	Explorers	4	\$2.95	50%
<i>On the moon, the Explorers experience an unexpected problem. A great book for silver age comic fans.</i>				
<u>9705-0115</u>	Pakkis Land	4	\$2.95	50%
<i>This issue begins the story that explains what the mystical land and magical place called Pakkin's Land really is.</i>				

<u>9705-0116</u>	Patty Cake	3	\$2.95	50%
<i>Patty Cake must endure a bizarre sleepover at a new friend's house. By Scott Roberts.</i>				
<u>9705-0117</u>	Shade of Gray Comics and Stories 4		\$2.95	50%

An unexpected character returns and turns Freddy's life upside down. A very good series.

CARTOON BOOKS

<u>9705-0118</u>	Bone	29	\$2.95	50%
<i>The second installment of the "Rockjaw: Master of the Eastern Border" storyline. by Jeff Smith.</i>				



COMIC IMAGES

<u>9705-0119</u>	Daredevil / Shi Super Jumbo	XL	\$14.99	40%
<i>A new shirt featuring two hot characters.</i>				
<u>9705-0120</u>	Daredevil / Shi Super Jumbo	XXL	\$18.99	40%
<i>A new shirt featuring two hot characters.</i>				
<u>9705-0121</u>	Elektra #3	XL	\$14.99	40%

The cover of Elektra #3 on a black t-shirt.

<u>9705-0122</u>	Elektra #3	XXL	\$18.99	40%
<i>The cover of Elektra #3 on a black t-shirt.</i>				
<u>9705-0123</u>	Ghost #3 Full Color T-Shirt	XL	\$16.99	40%

A full color t-shirt of the cover of GHOST #3.



<u>9705-0124</u>	Ghost #3 Full Color T-Shirt	XXL	\$20.99	40%
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A full color t-shirt of the cover of GHOST #3.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Description				

- ____ 0125 **The Hulk Full Color Process Shirt** XL \$17.99 40%
A full color T-shirt the of the incre9705ible one himself, The Hulk.
- ____ 9705-0126 **The Hulk Full Color Process Shirt** XXL \$22.99 40%
A full color T-shirt the of the incredible one himself, The Hulk.
- ____ 9705-0127 **Jubilee Super-Jumbo T-shirt** XL \$16.99 40%
The cover to Gen-X #26 on a black t-shirt.
- ____ 9705-0128 **Jubilee Super-Jumbo T-shirt** XXL \$20.99 40%
The cover to Gen-X #26 on a black t-shirt.
- ____ 9705-0129 **Kazar #1** XL \$14.99 40%
Kuburt's cover to KA-ZAR #1 on a white t-shirt.
- ____ 9705-0130 **Kazar #1** XXL \$18.99 40%
Kuburt's cover to KA-ZAR #1 on a t-white shirt.
- ____ 9705-0131 **La Blue Girl T-Shirt** XL \$16.99 40%
This best selling adult anime series is now available on a gray t-shirt.
- ____ 9705-0132 **La Blue Girl T-Shirt** XXL \$20.99 40%
This best selling adult anime series is now available on a gray t-shirt.



- ____ 9705-0133 **Predator Full Color Process T-shirt** XL \$16.99 40%
The cover of Kindred #2 on a white shirt.
- ____ 9705-0134 **Predator Full Color Process T-shirt** XXL \$20.99 40%
The cover of Kindred #2 on a white shirt.
- ____ 9705-0135 **Storm/Wolverine Super-Jumbo T** XL \$16.99 40%
The cover of X-Men #62 on a white t-shirt.
- ____ 9705-0136 **Storm/Wolverine Super-Jumbo T** XXL \$20.99 40%
The cover of X-Men #62 on a white t-shirt.
- ____ 9705-0137 **Species Full Color T-Shirt** XL \$16.99 40%
The cover of Human Race #3 on a white t-shirt.
- ____ 9705-0138 **Species Full Color T-Shirt** XXL \$20.99 40%
The cover of Human Race #3 on a white t-shirt.

____ 9705-0139 **Spider-Man Amazing #418 Jumbo** XL \$16.99 40%
A jumbo shirt featuring everybody's favorite wall-crawler. The cover to Amazing Spider-Man #418.

____ 9705-0140 **Spider-Man Amazing #418 Jumbo** XXL \$20.99 40%
A jumbo shirt featuring everybody's favorite wall-crawler. The cover to Amazing Spider-Man #418.



____ 9705-0141 **Spider-Man/Morbius Super-Jumbo** XL \$16.99 40%
Spider-Man and the miss-understood vampire together on a gray t-shirt.

____ 9705-0142 **Spider-Man/Morbius Super-Jumbo** XXL \$20.99 40%
Spider-Man and the miss-understood vampire together on a gray t-shirt.

____ 9705-0143 **THB Full-Color Process T-shirt** XL \$16.99 40%
A beautiful Paul Pope image on a white shirt.

____ 9705-0144 **THB Full-Color Process T-shirt** XXL \$20.99 40%
A beautiful Paul Pope image on a white shirt.

____ 9705-0145 **Tick Spotlight T-Shirt** XL \$15.99 40%
A full color jumbo image of the Tick.

____ 9705-0146 **Tick Spotlight T-Shirt** XXL \$19.99 40%
A full color jumbo image of the Tick.

____ 9705-0147 **Venom License To Kill Jumbo** XL \$16.99 40%
A jumbo image of Venom on a black shirt.

____ 9705-0148 **Venom License To Kill Jumbo** XXL \$20.99 40%
A jumbo image of Venom on a black shirt.

____ 9705-0149 **Wolverine** XL \$14.99 40%
A sharp image of Wolverine on a white shirt.

____ 9705-0150 **Wolverine** XXL \$18.99 40%
A sharp image of Wolverine on a white shirt.

____ 9705-0151 **X-Men Reflections #1 Jumbo** XL \$16.99 40%
The cover of Uncanny X-Men #337 on a black tee.

____ 9705-0152 **X-Men Reflections #1 Jumbo** XXL \$20.99 40%
The cover of Uncanny X-Men #337 on a black tee.

____ 9705-0153 **Electra Mini-Stand-Up** \$3.99 40%
A mini stand-up of Elektra looking very sexy.

____ 9705-0154 **The X-Men '97 Keepsake Collection** \$19.99 40%
A new, full color Marvel Comics keepsake collection. Includes a 6-card press sheet packed in a collector's envelope. Limited to 2500.

____ 9705-0155 **Ghost Collector Cards Box** \$35.75 0%
A 72 card set chronicling the life and Death of Ghost. Chromium and signed chase cards. 8 cards per pack.

9705-0156 Ghost Collector Cards Collector Binder \$19.95 35%
 A deluxe 3-ring binder that can hold the entire set including chase cards. Plus uncut 6-card press sheet.

9705-0157 THB and More Collector Cards Box \$35.75 0%
 A 72 card set with all new art by Paul Pope. Lots of THB and a few surprises. Chromium and signed chase cards. 8 cards per pack.



9705-0158 THB and More Collector Binder \$19.95 35%
 A deluxe 3-ring binder that can hold the entire set including chase cards. Plus uncut 6-card press sheet.

9705-0159 Deluxe Mort Kunstler Binders-Civil War \$19.95 35%
 A full color binder to keep this classic set in. Comes with enough pages to hold the entire set. Full color art though-out.

9705-0160 Deluxe Mort Kunstler Binders-Wild West \$19.95 35%
 A full color binder to keep this classic set in. Comes with enough pages to hold the entire set. Full color art though-out.

CINEFANTASTIQUE

9705-0161 Femme Fatales Volume #6 1 \$5.95 35%
 The women of Hammer Horror films with rare photos and interviews. Includes Hazel Court, Ingrid Pitt, Veronica Carlson, and more.

CPM COMICS

9705-0162 [M] Chirality 3 \$2.95 50%
 The battle continues and the humans desperately try to escape the invading GM.

9705-0163 [M] Midnight Panther 2 \$2.95 50%
 Having successfully infiltrated the King's bedroom, Lou must now kill him to complete the panthers contract.

CRUSADE COMICS

9705-0164 Angel Fire 2 \$2.95 50%
 It's Anastasia verses the deadly Angel Fire Cannon. By Miskin, Flores, and Perrotta.

9705-0165 Manga Shi 2000 (Of 3) 3 \$2.95 50%
 She and her strike team face their toughest battle as they assault the stronghold of the Comsafe. By Tucci/Mishkin/Orfalias.

9705-0166 Shi The Way of the Warrior Trade 3 \$17.95 45%
 Collects Shi vs. Tomoe and Shi #'s 9-12. 160 pages of action at a great price.

9705-0167 [R] Atomic Angels 1 \$2.95 50%
 The first issue of this hit mini-series is still available.

9705-0168 [R] Shi/Cyberblade: Battle for the Independents \$2.95 50%
 Billy Tucci and Marc Silvestri combine to bring you a story beyond imagination. A few are left.

9705-0169 [R] War Limited Edition Poster \$4.95 40%
 The stunning cover to Shi Vs. Tomoe is now available as a full color poster. 22' x 34'.

DRACULINA

9705-0170 Draculina 30 \$5.95 40%
 This issues unveils the new Draculina. Full color with some nudity. Lots of articles and reviews.

DRAWN & QUARTERLY

9705-0171 Drawn and Quarterly Volume 2 6 \$9.95 40%
 Double sized final issue. Stories by Adrian Tomine, Jason Lutes, Max, Baru, and others. 64 pages. Full color.



9705-0172 [R] Drawn and Quarterly Volume 2 1 \$5.95 40%
 40 pages. Partial color. Features a Jacques Tardi story.

9705-0173 [R] Drawn and Quarterly Volume 2 2 \$5.95 40%
 40 pages. Partial color. Features stories by Jacques Tardi, David Mazzucchelli, and others.

9705-0174 [R] The Best of Drawn and Quarterly \$10.95 40%
 The best from the original DRAWN AND QUARTERLY series. Includes Seth, Mazzucchelli, Doucet, others. 64 pages.

9705-0175 The Envelope Manufacture [Of 3] 1 \$2.95 40%
 A new series by Chris Oliveros. The story of Jack Cluthers struggles to keep his envelope business afloat.

EDDIE CAMPBELL COMICS

9705-0176 Bacchus 25 \$2.95 45%
 While in jail Bacchus hears of numerous horrors and meets the men that committed these crimes. Plus Alex is still in the pub.

EL CAPITAN BOOKS

9705-0177 Stray Bullets 14 \$3.50 50%
 It's a special 48 page issue. After being stuck in the middle of nowhere things are starting to finally look up for Orson and Beth.

EVENT COMICS

9705-0178 Ash: Cinder and Smoke 1 \$2.95 50%
 It's a new Ash series by a hot new creative team, Mark Waid, Brian Augustyn, Humberto Ramos and Jimmy Palmiotti. WOW!!!

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Description				

9705-0179 **Crimson Plague** 1 \$2.95 50%
It's a new series by George Perez. At long last George is writing and drawing his own book. Plus it is full of beautiful women.

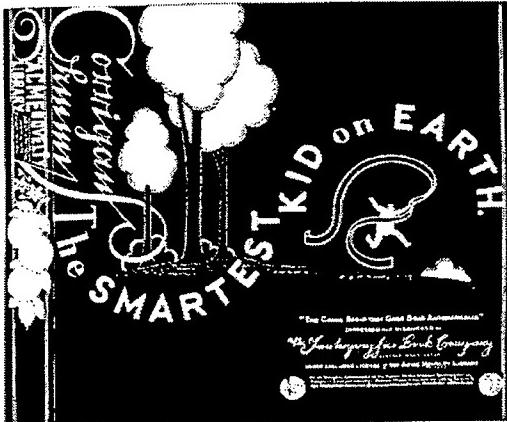
9705-0180 **Painkiller Jane/Darkness Color Ltd. Litho Reg.** \$24.95 45%
A full color lithograph on aqueous watercolor paper. Every line breaths with life. A beautiful piece of art. Limited to 1000 pieces.

9705-0181 **Painkiller Jane/Darkness Color Ltd. Litho Deluxe** \$59.95 45%
This version is limited to 500 copies and is signed by Joe Qusada and Jimmy Palmiotti

9705-0182 **Ash Action Figures** (6 figures per case.) \$71.50 35%
A highly detailed plastic figure of ASH in all his glory. 7 1/2" tall. Multiple points of articulation. Plus 1 special variant per case. Blister Card.

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

9705-0183 [M] **Acme Novelty Library** 9 \$4.50 45%
This critically acclaimed series by Chris Ware is back. This issue is the newest chapter in Jimmy Corrigan.



9705-0184 [M,R] **Clover Honey** \$12.95 45%
120 graphic novel by Rich Tommaso. A very good book.

9705-0185 [M,R] **Hate (Mature Readers)** 14 \$2.95 45%
A second printing. Plus the return of Valerie.

9705-0186 [I] **Leonardo** \$19.95 45%
Ralph Steadman pays tribute to Leonardo di Vinci.

9705-0187 [M,R] **Invasion of the Mind Sappers (Mature)** \$8.95 45%
A 80 page graphic novel by the popular British cartoonist Carol Swain.

9705-0188 [M,R] **Jeremy Pickle Goes To Prague (Mature)** \$8.95 45%
A 104 page graphic novel by Andy London.

9705-0189 [M,R] **Minimum Wage Vol. 1 (Mature)** \$9.95 45%
The album that started off this hit series. One of the best books on the market. By Bob Fingerman.

9705-0190 [M] **No More Shaves: 6 Characters/Duplex Planet** \$16.95 45%
A collection from the pages of DUPLEX PLANET as well as new material. Mature readers. 144 pages.

9705-0191 **Pogo Volume 7** \$9.95 45%
This classic series by Walt Kelly hits high gear as this volume reprints years 1951 and 1952. 88 pages.

9705-0192 [A] **Robert Crumb Sketchbook Vol. 6 SC** \$19.95 45%
More from the legendary Robert Crumb's sketchbook. Covers the years 1968 and 1969.

9705-0193 [A] **Robert Crumb Sketchbook Vol. 6 HC** \$39.95 35%
More from the legendary Robert Crumb's sketchbook. Covers the years 1968 and 1969.

9705-0194 [A] **Robert Crumb Sketchbook Vol. 6 S/N HC** \$75.00 20%
More from the legendary Robert Crumb's sketchbook. Covers the years 1968 and 1969. Signed.

9705-0195 [A] **Self Loathing Comics** 2 \$3.50 45%
Two years in the making. A new 35 page story by Aline and Robert Crumb. Plus Charles Burns and Art Spiegelman.



9705-0196 **Steve Ditko's Strange Avenging Tales** 2 \$2.95 45%
From the man who created Spider-Man. More strangeness. 24 pages.

9705-0197 [M,R] **Suckle: The Status of Basil (Mature)** \$14.95
A surreal travelogue by Dave Cooper. 136 pages. Digest Sized.

9705-0198 [M,R] **Young Hood in Love** \$9.95 45%
A collection of the work of Ho Che Anderson. 80 pages. Graphic novel. B/W.

EROS (All Books Are For Adults Only!)

9705-0200 [A] **Bitch in Heat** 2 \$2.95 45%
Hardcore sex from Italian Giovanna Casotto. Not for the weak of heart.

9705-0201 [A,R] **Bushwacked** 1 \$2.95 45%
Hot sex by Tayyar (CAVEMAN) Ozkan.

9705-0202 [A,R] **Cave Bang** 1 \$2.95 45%
Hot sex by Tayyar (CAVEMAN) Ozkan.

9705-0203 [A] **Dagger of Blood** 3 \$2.95 45%
The newest chapter in the saga of Coley by John Blackburn.

9705-0204 [A] **Here Come The Lovejoys [Of 4]** 4 \$2.95 45%
The newest issue of the family that is a little too close knit (wink, wink). By Bruce McCorindale.



_____ 9705-0205 [A] Lambada Book 4: Blood Road \$12.95 45%
104 page graphic novel by BENe. Includes Slow Burn, Blood Road, Siren's Call, and Beach Babe. Spanish sex!

_____ 9705-0206 [A] Lust 2 \$2.95 45%
The second issue of this hot new series by manga creator Tenjiku Rounin.

_____ 9705-0207 [A] Misty Girl Extreme Special 1 \$3.50 45%
Two stories in this final issue by the creator of Hot Tails!



_____ 9705-0208 [A] New Bondage Fairies 7 \$2.95 45%
More erotic doings in the forest by Kondom. A consistent best seller!.

_____ 9705-0209 [A] Pet 1 \$2.95 45%
A new issue by Tayyar Ozkan, full of humor and sex.

_____ 9705-0210 [A] Princess of Darkness (3rd Printing) 1 \$2.95 45%
More manga erotica. Previously sold out is now back in print.

_____ 9705-0211 [A] Ramba 10 \$2.95 45%
A second printing of this hardcore version of Le Femme Niikita.

_____ 9705-0212 [A] Ramba Volume 2 2 \$12.95 45%
A new printing of this best selling Eros GN.

_____ 9705-0213 [A] Sexcapades 6 \$2.95 45%
An all new issue of this best selling Manga Erotic book by Jiro Chiba.

_____ 9705-0214 [A] Super Taboo (2nd Printing) 1 3 \$2.95 45%
More manga erotica previously sold out, now back in print.

_____ 9705-0215 [A] Tart 3 \$2.95 45%
The third issue of this barely legal little girl. Nice art by Hawie Dard.

_____ 9705-0216 [A] Young Witches: London Babylon GN \$19.95 45%
The second Young Witches series by Lopez and Barreiro in one volume. This volume features everything! 176 pages.



FIREMAN PRESS LTD.

_____ 9705-0217 La Cosa Nostroid 3 \$2.95 45%
Merendino is at death's door and he has Huge Lucci to blame for it. By Dan Harman and Edvis.

GLADSTONE

_____ 9705-0218 Donald Duck Adventures 45 \$1.95 50%
The Red Duck, a European adventures where Donald and his nephews travel back in time.

_____ 9705-0219 Uncle Scrooge Adventures Don Rosa 97 2 \$9.95 50%
The second issue in a four issue run reprinting all of Don Rosa's duck work from the original Gladstone run.

_____ 9705-0220 Uncle Scrooge 305 \$1.95 50%
Another chapter in Don Rosa's Live and Times of Uncle Scrooge, this is issue #6.5 and is called The Vigilante of Pizen Bluff.

_____ 9705-0221 Uncle Scrooge Adventures 49 \$1.95 50%
Dead Eye Duck in an European story with Donald and Uncle Scrooge off in the Wild West.

_____ 9705-0222 Uncle Scrooge Adventures in Color 24 \$8.95 50%
This volume features UNCLE SCROOGE #24 by Carl Barks. A classic story represented in this beautiful album format.

_____ 9705-0223 Walt Disney's Comics and Stories 614 \$6.95 50%
A new William Van Horn story leads off this issue. There are also the continuing Mickey newspaper strips and lots more.

_____ 9705-0224 Walt Disney's Comics/Stories Penny Pincher 2 \$9.95 50%
It's Donald and the boys against Gladstone Gander, at a price even Uncle Scrooge would appreciate.

GRAPHITTI DESIGNS

_____ 9705-0225 Batman and Robin Logo T-Shirt L \$17.95 35%
From the summer movie of the same name.

_____ 9705-0226 Batman and Robin Logo T-Shirt XL \$14.95 35%
From the summer movie of the same name.

_____ 9705-0227 Batman and Robin Logo T-Shirt XXL \$17.95 35%
From the summer movie of the same name.

_____ 9705-0228 Batman/Robin: Dark Knight T-Shirt L \$17.95 35%
From the summer movie of the same name.

_____ 9705-0229 Batman/Robin: Dark Knight T-Shirt XL \$17.95 35%
From the summer movie of the same name.

_____ 9705-0230 Batman/Robin: Dark Knight T-Shirt XXL \$17.95 35%
From the summer movie of the same name.

_____ 9705-0231 Batman/Robin: Can you Take the Heat T-S L \$17.95 35%
Batman standing in flames with the words above and below him.

_____ 9705-0232 Batman/Robin: Can you Take the Heat T-S XL \$17.95 35%
Batman standing in flames with the words above and below him.

_____ 9705-0233 Batman/Robin: Can you Take the Heat T-S XXL \$17.95 35%
Batman standing in flames with the words above and below him.

_____ 9705-0234 Caatinga HC Book and Print Set \$69.95 35%
A limited edition of 500, this is the newest work by Belgian artist Hermann. Each book comes with a removable plate signed by Hermann.

_____ 9705-0235 Smiley The Psychotic Button Embroidered Cap \$19.95 35%
The titles says it all.

_____ 9705-0236 Strangers in Paradise T-Shirt L \$22.95 35%
A brand new t-shirt based on this best selling series.

_____ 9705-0237 Strangers in Paradise T-Shirt XL \$22.95 35%
A brand new t-shirt based on this best selling series.

_____ 9705-0238 Strangers in Paradise T-Shirt XXL \$25.95 35%
A brand new t-shirt based on this best selling series.

_____ 9705-0239 [R] Madman Two Trilogies Collected \$79.95 35%
This signed and numbered hard cover collection of the early Madman mini-series.

_____ 9705-0240 [R] Milk and Cheese Magnet Set \$6.95 35%
Dairy Products gone bad can now stick to the outside of your refrigerator as well as the inside.

_____ 9705-0241 [R] Red Dragon and Ted Statue \$195.00 35%
This stunning statue is still available in limited quantities.

Code Description	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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_____ 9705-0242 [R] Madman Bolt T-S (Re-Listed) L \$14.95 35%
Now you too can be a Madman.

_____ 9705-0243 [R] Madman Bolt T-S (Re-Listed) XL \$14.95 35%
Now you too can be a Madman.

_____ 9705-0244 [R] Madman Bolt T-S (Re-Listed) XXL \$17.95 35%
Now you too can be a Madman.

GROUND ZERO PRESS

_____ 9705-0245 [M] Fang of the Widow (Mature) 13 \$3.50 45%
Now at a lower price. This issue reprints WIDOW: BOUND BY BLOOD #4 with all new material never before seen.

HARRIS COMICS

_____ 9705-0246 Pantha: Haunted Passion 1 \$2.95 50%
Reprints of the first Warren Pantha stories in color. Cover by Gary Frank and Cam Smith.

_____ 9705-0247 Vampirella: Sad Winds of Destiny Gold 4 \$3.95 50%
This is a special gold edition of this sold out book. Ltd. to 5000 copies. w/Gold Seal Emblem.

_____ 9705-0248 Vampirella Silver Ann. Litho Set by Jim Silke \$100. 35%
5 lithograph prints by Jim Silke. 4 our covers for the Vampi Silver Ann. Coll. + a new one. Ltd. 500. 12" x 16 1/2.

_____ 9705-0249 Vampirella Lives Alternative Version 2 \$9.95 45%
An alternative edition with an Adam Hughes cover limited to 2,500 copies.

_____ 9705-0250 Vampirella Vs. Hemorrhage [Of 3] 2 \$3.50 50%
The blood bath continues. For every 20 copies orders you will receive a s/n print. Ltd. 1000.

INSIGHT STUDIES



_____ 9705-0251 Insight Studios Intro Pack \$10.00 50%
Four books in a bag. Includes RADICAL DREAMER, TUG & BUSTER, DR. CYBORG, and a UNIVERSITY 2 ashcan.

KITCHEN SINK PRESS

_____ 9705-0252 Awakening [Of 4] 3 \$3.50 50%
The third issue of this new series by the extremely talented Stephen Blue. Give it a look.

_____ 9705-0253 Black Hole (2nd printing) 1 \$3.50 50%
Charles Burn's haunting book is now back in print.

_____ 9705-0254 Black Hole Poster and Signed Print Regular Edition \$8.95 45%
A haunting yet sexy print of Kris, the lead character from Black Hole. Printed in 6 colors on 80lb stock. The image area is 21" x 32.

_____ 9705-0255 Black Hole Poster and S/N Print Deluxe Edition \$25.00 45%
A signed and numbered version of the above print limited to 250 copies. Printed on extra heavy 18-point stock.

_____ 9705-0256 [A] Cherry [New Printing] 6 \$3.50 50%
A new printing of this adult best seller.

_____ 9705-0257 [A] Cherry's Jubilee [New Printing] 3 \$3.50 50%
A new printing of this adult best seller.

_____ 9705-0258 [A] Cherry's Door Poster \$16.95 50%
Now you can look at Cherry all day long.

_____ 9705-0259 Crow: Flesh and Blood Collection \$10.95 50%
The acclaimed mini-series by James Vance and Alexander Maleev is collected into one economical trade collection.

_____ 9705-0260 Gladiator's Collector Cards \$22.99 0%
These cards were previously only available in Australia. Now you can a box of trading cards featuring the toughest men and women this side of the WWF.

_____ 9705-0261 Gladiator's Cards Binder \$18.00 35%
A binder to keep you complete 99 card set in. (And don't forget those 5 levels of chase cards.)

_____ 9705-0262 Goon Squad Collector Card Set \$12.95 50%
A new printing of this card set by Charles Burns. A consistent seller.

_____ 9705-0263 Goon Squad Collector Card Uncut Sheet \$19.95 50%
What is a card set with out a cut an uncut sheet to go with it?

_____ 9705-0264 Goon Squad Collector Card Uncut Sheet S/N \$75.00 40%
What is a uncut sheet is there isn't a signed version available?

_____ 9705-0265 Michael WM Kaluta Sketchbook 2nd Print \$14.95 50%
At long last a new printing of this book formally published by Tundra.

_____ 9705-0266 Oink: Blood and Circus 1 \$4.95 50%
The long anticipated sequel to the hit series Oink. More mayhem from John Muller in full color.

_____ 9705-0267 Oink: Heaven's Butcher 1 \$4.95 50%
The first issue of the first Oink series is available in limited quantities.

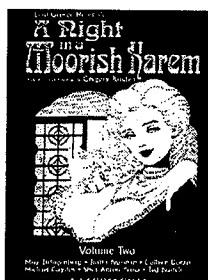
_____ 9705-0268 Rocketship GO 1 \$3.50 50%
Todd Ramsell brings you a very strange tale of life during the early sixties and the days of Camelot. A quirky book to be sure.

NBM

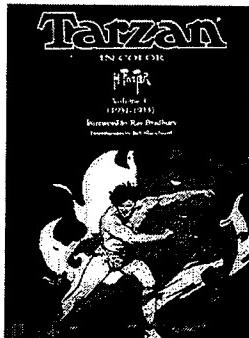


_____ 9705-0269 Corto Maltese: Ballad of the Salt Sea 1 \$2.95 45%
This classic strip by the great European Creator Hugo Pratt begins. 24 pages.

- ____ 9705-0270 [R] **Corto Maltese: Banana Republic** \$8.95 45%
96 pages of great adventure by Hugo Pratt.
- ____ 9705-0271 [R] **Corto Maltese: In Africa** \$8.95 45%
96 pages of great adventure by Hugo Pratt.
- ____ 9705-0272 [R] **Corto Maltese: Midwinter Morning Dream** \$8.95 45%
112 pages of great adventure by Hugo Pratt.
- ____ 9705-0273 [R] **Corto Maltese: Voodoo for the President** \$8.95 45%
96 pages of great adventure by Hugo Pratt.
- ____ 9705-0274 **Hugo Pratt: Aquarelles** \$75.00 40%
A full color trade collecting Hugo Pratt's beautiful paintings. A coffee table book imported from Europe.
- ____ 9705-0275 [A] **A Night in A Moorish Harem Volume 2** \$10.95 40%
By Greg Baisden and Bringenburg, Doran, Norman, Naifeh, Gaydos, Pensa.

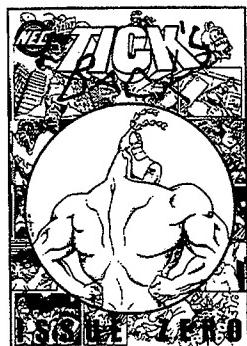


- ____ 9705-0276 [A,R] **A Night in A Moorish Harem Volume 1** \$11.95 40%
Similar to above with art by Campbell, Doran, Bode and others.
- ____ 9705-0277 **Tarzan in Color Volume 1, 1931-1933 TPB** \$24.95 45%
At long last the complete reprinting of Hal Foster's Tarzan newspaper strip is available in softcover.



NEW ENGLAND COMICS

- ____ 9705-0278 **The Tick's Back** 0 \$2.95 50%
A brand new Tick story. The first in three years. Story and art by Eli Stone. The Tick takes on Toy DeForce.



- ____ 9705-0279 **The Tick Karma Tornado** 7 \$2.95 50%
A new printing of this book. By Terry Collins and Alan Hopkins. Story: "Night of the Living Tick"
- ____ 9705-0280 **The Tick Karma Tornado** 8 \$2.95 50%
A new printing of this book. By Clay Griffith and Dave Garcia. Story: "C-Spandex"
- ____ 9705-0281 **Tick Poster: Keen** \$4.99 40%
A full color poster on glossy stock. 32" x 21". The Tick saying "Keen"
- ____ 9705-0282 **Tick Poster: Going Crazy** \$4.99 40%
A f/c poster on glossy stock. 32" x 21". The Tick saying "You're not going crazy, no, you're sane in a crazy world"

PENTHOUSE COMICS

- ____ 9705-0283 [A] **Penthouse Comix (Adults)** 24 \$4.95 50%
80 pages of all new adult material. Includes work by Moebius, Cully Hamner, and Tony Salmons

PIONEER ENTERTAINMENT

- ____ 9705-0284 **EI Hazard** 2 \$2.95 45%
An ordinary high school student and his pals get thrown into the weird world of EI Hazard.
- ____ 9705-0285 **Moldiver (Of 4)** 2 \$2.95 45%
Fifty years in the future Hiroshi creates a Moldiver and can change reality at will.
- ____ 9705-0286 **Phantom Quest Corp. (Of 4)** 3 \$2.95 45%
The action shifts to New York as a convention of the para-normal takes place.
- ____ 9705-0287 **Tenchi Muyo (Of 6)** 3 \$2.95 45%
Ryo-Ohki is hunted down by the evil Cabbit Hunter, Rob. Of course, all hell breaks loose next.

POCKET BOOKS

- ____ 9705-0288 **Alien Voices: Journey to the Center/Earth Cass.** \$18.40%
A brand new adaptation of the Jules Verne epic saga. Includes the voices of Leonard Nimoy & John de Lancie. 3 hours.
- ____ 9705-0289 **Alien Voices: Journey to the Center/Earth CD** \$20.00 40%
The same three hours as above but on two compact discs.
- ____ 9705-0290 **Apocalypse Wow: A Memoir for the End of Time** \$16.00 40%
Best selling humorist James Finn Garner targets all of today's fads, such as the Internet, UFO's, alien abduction and more. Trade paperback.
- ____ 9705-0291 **Dance to the Sun** MMP \$5.99 40%
The new novel by William Esrac. Young Saulus can change everything, including the genetic structure of living things.
- ____ 9705-0292 **Honor Among Enemies** MMP \$6.99 40%
By David Weber. Captain Honor Harrington is given a second chance as the captain of a ship full of killers and thugs.
- ____ 9705-0293 **Inside Star Trek: The Real Story TPB** Trade \$18.00 40%
480 pages of behind the scenes Star Trek info. A must for ST fans, now at a lower price.
- ____ 9705-0294 **Inside Star Trek: The Real Story HC** HC \$30.00 40%
For the true fan, the hardcover is still available.
- ____ 9705-0295 **How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way** Trade \$13.00 40%
This best selling book is a must for fans wanting to become an artist. Sells as well as Marvel Comics do these days.
- ____ 9705-0296 **Project Maldon** MMP \$5.99 40%
The artificial intelligence called Helen must find what ails humanity before there is no humanity left.

Code Description	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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9705-0297 **ST: Deep Space Nine #10-Space Camp (YA)** \$3.99 40%
A young adults ST Adventure. Jake Sisco and Nog go to Starfleet Academy Summer Camp. MMP.

9705-0298 **Star Trek: Mind Meld** MMP \$5.99 40%
A new novel by John Vornholt. Spock and his niece travel to Vulcan, but of course things do not go as planned.

9705-0299 **Star Trek: Voyager-Mosaic** MMP \$5.99 40%
First time in paperback. Written by Voyager co-creator Jerri Taylor. A look at the life of Captain Kathryn Janeway

9705-0300 **6** 1 \$3.99 40%
A new novel based on the comic and the CD-ROM game/comic of the same name.

9705-0301 **Suit** 1 \$3.99 40%
A new novel based on the comic and the CD-ROM game/comic of the same name.

9705-0302 **They Call Me Skul: From the Depth** 1 \$3.99 40%
A new novel based on the comic and the CD-ROM game/comic of the same name.

9705-0303 **They Call Me Skul: When the Creature Strikes** 2 \$3.99 40%
A new novel based on the comic and the CD-ROM game/comic of the same name.

9705-0304 **Young Miles** Trade \$15.00 40%
A new novel by Lois McMaster Bujold about Miles Vorkosigan, whose life is anything but boring. Sure to be a best-seller.

RADIO COMIX

9705-0305 **Furlough** \$2.95 45%
Part one of the new Tommy Bronze story.

9705-0306 **[A] Genus Greatest Hits: Volume 2** 24 \$4.95 45%
60 plus pages from the early, long sold out issues of Genus. All adult stuff.

RETROGRAPHICS

9705-0307 **Strange Attractors: Chaos Jitterbug** 1 \$16.95 40%
The first trade collection of this excellent series is still available.

RE-VISIONARY PRESS

9705-0308 **[A] XXX Cinema: A Cartoon History** 2 \$3.50 45%
This issue covers the years 1975-1984. First person accounts from Seka, Harry Reems, Kay Parker.

9705-0309 **[A] Camel Comics: Hyapatia Lee** (2nd print) 1 \$2.95 45%
A new printing of this previously sold out issue.

9705-0310 **[A] Camel Comics: Lovette** 1 \$2.95 45%
This issue is still available.

9705-0311 **[A] Camel Comics: Taylor Wane** (2nd print) 1 \$2.95 45%
A new printing of this previously sold out issue.

9705-0312 **[A] Camel Comics: Tiffany Mynx** 1 \$2.95 45%
This issue is still available.

SIRIUS ENTERTAINMENT

9705-0313 **Akiko** 15 \$2.50 50%
By Mark Crilley. Akiko and her crew emerge from the tunnel with their goal in sight, but Loza Throck stands in the way.

9705-0314 **Armageddonquest Vol.1** \$13.00 50%
A special 296 graphic novel for only \$13.95. Part one of a massive 900 page epic. Written and drawn by Ronald Roach.

9705-0315 **Armageddonquest Limited Print Set** #1-3 \$40. 40%
Get all three volumes of this epic at one time with a special signed print. Limited to 500 sets.

9705-0316 **Charles Vess' Books of Ballads/Sagas Portfolio** \$25. 35%
Eight full color prints painted by Charles Vess. Limited to 1500 signed and numbered editions. Embossed envelope.

9705-0317 **Books of Ballads/Sagas Portfolio Etched Edition** \$100. 35%
Limited to 100 copies and each one has an original etching by Charles Vess.

9705-0318 **Poison Elves** 24 \$2.50 50%
Morachi's wife returns. Things will never be the same. By Drew Hayes.

9705-0319 **Reality Check** 9 \$2.95 50%
The internet surfing feline Catreece gets together with computer virus fighter girl Loopy and form the The Fru Fru Brigade.

9705-0320 **Safety-Belt Man: All Hell** 5 \$2.95 50%
Safety-Belt Man must choose sides in the war between the Heavenly Hosts and the Carma-Demons of hell.

SQP (666 COMICS)

9705-0321 **Air Brush Action** May/June \$4.99 40%
Lots of sneak peaks behind the scenes at Warner Brothers and Paramount.

9705-0322 **[R] Argon the Savage Book Two (Re-Listed)** 2 \$7.95 40%
By Fernando Fernandez. 64 pages. B/W.

9705-0323 **Batman (Toy Biz)** \$30.00 35%
The original Toy Biz Batman toy in black costume. Very limited.

9705-0324 **Bob the Goon (Toy Biz)** \$40.00 35%
The original Toy Biz goon from the original Batman movie. Very limited.

9705-0325 **Commander Yar Toy (Galoob) ST: Next Generation** \$40.00 35%
The original Galoob toy still on display card.

9705-0326 **[R] Judge Dredd: Future Crime Graphic Novel** \$7.95 40%
A collection in full color of Judge Dredd's greatest cases.

9705-0327 **Killjoy** 2 \$2.95 50%
Part two of one of the strangest comic heroes ever. By William Maher and Flint Henry.

9705-0328 **Mr. Freeze (Toy Biz)** \$40.00 35%
The original Toy Biz toy. Very limited.

9705-0329 **Riker Toy (Galoob) ST: The Next Generation** 25 . 00 35%
The original Galoob toy still on display card.

9705-0330 **Spider-Man Portfolio** \$15.00 40%
A portfolio of 4 full color prints by Fastner and Larson. Very limited.

9705-0331 **Worf Toy (Galoob) ST: The Next Generation** \$35.00 35%
The original Galoob toy still on display card.

9705-0332 **Zombie War Cards** \$25.00 35%
A knock-off of Mars Attack by Charles Lang and Tom Skulan featuring Zombies.

VIZ

9705-0333 **Animerica Vol. 5** 5 \$4.95 50%
Sailor Moon-the rest of the story.

9705-0334 **Battle Angel Alita Part 7** [Of 8] 8 \$2.95 50%
Will this be Alita's third lease on life or is it the end? All out action and one of Viz's best sellers.

9705-0335 **Bio-Booster Armor Guyver Part 6** [Of 6] 6 \$2.95 50%
The final battle and issue of this chapter in the series. By Yoshiki Takaya.

9705-0336 **Bio-Booster Guyver: Heart of Chronus** TPB \$15.95 50%
192 pages. Collects the complete Part 5 of the Guyver series. This is the sixth Guyver collection.

9705-0337 **Fist of the North Star Part 4** [Of 7] 6 \$2.95 50%
Ken is a step closer to finding out what happened to his lost love, Yuria.

9705-0338 **Galaxy/Express 999: Adieu Galaxy Express** Video \$24.95 40%
130 minutes. Theatrical length feature.

9705-0339 **Galaxy/Express 999: Adieu Galaxy Express-Sub.** \$29.95
40%
130 minutes. Theatrical length feature.

9705-0340 **Inu Yasha** [Of 10] 2 \$2.95 50%
This series is by Rumiko Takahashi. An action packed tale of time travel, love, and legend.

9705-0341 **Maison Ikkoku Part 6** [Of 11] 10 \$2.95 50%
Ibuki goes on strike and Shun gets a new love interest.

9705-0342 **Maison Ikkoku: Intensive Care** TPB \$15.95 50%
184 pages. Collects the second half of Maison Ikkoku Part 5. This is the 7th volume in the Mi graphic novel series.

9705-0343 **Maison Ikkoku: Playing Doubles Sub-titled** \$29.95 40%
52 minutes. Two complete episodes. Match Point!

9705-0344 **Manga Vizion Vol. 3** 5 \$4.95 50%
OGRE SLAYER comes to a close. Plus Rumiko Takahashi and Ryiochi Ikegami.

9705-0345 **Metal Guardian Faust** [Of 8] 3 \$2.95 50%
Terminator meets "Bio-Booster Guyver". By Hitoshi Okuda, the creator of Tenchi.

9705-0346 **No Need For Tenchi! Part 2** [Of 7] 7 \$2.95 50%
The final issue of part two.

9705-0347 **One-Pound Gospel Round 2** [Of 8] 5 \$2.95 50%
Kosaku finds a kindred spirit in a girl who is over weight till the coach finds out.

9705-0348 **Ranma ½ Part 6** [Of 14] 6 \$2.95 50%
Wacky principle Kuno is planning new punishment for the students.

9705-0349 **Ranma ½ Hard Battle: Back to the Hoppoai** \$24.95 40%
2 complete episodes.

9705-0350 **Ranma ½ Video Jukebox** Video \$14.95 40%
27 minutes. 18 animated music videos from the opening and ending themes of the Ranma 1/2 TV series.

9705-0351 **Ranma 1/2 T-Shirt Style #3** Large \$16.95 40%
Features "Furinkan High Athletic Dept" design on athletic gray.

9705-0352 **Ranma 1/2 T-Shirt Style #3** X-Large \$16.95 40%
Features "Furinkan High Athletic Dept" design on athletic gray.

9705-0353 **Ranma 1/2 T-Shirt Style #4** Large \$17.95 40%
Features the official Ranma ½ logo.

9705-0354 **Ranma 1/2 T-Shirt Style #4** X-Large \$17.95 40%
Features the official Ranma ½ logo.

9705-0355 **Ranma 1/2 Original Soundtrack CD Volume 1**
17 tracks. Stereo. 47 minutes. Has the opening and ending themes: background music from the 1st Ranma ½ TV series.
16.95 40%



9705-0356 **Viz-In Magazine: Volume 9**
Find out what's upcoming from Viz!

Supplies Are Available for Immediate Shipping

9705-0357 **X/1999: Sonata** TPB \$15.95 50%
184 pages. Collects all of X: 1999 part three.



WARP GRAPHICS

9705-0358 **Elfquest** 12 \$4.95 50%
Four all new stories headlined by the conclusion of ROGUE'S CURSE. Wendy Pini and others

9705-0359 **Samurai** [Of 4] 1 \$2.95 50%
New stories of Toshiro Kimura, a young shaman in New York. By Barry Blair and Colin Chan.

9705-0360 **Wolfriders Guide to the World of Elfquest** \$19.95 45%
This book has been completely updated and revised by author Theresa Roberson. New and improved.

WILDSTORM

9705-0361 **Wildstorms Collectable Card Games** \$99.00 45%
Now you can play the Wildstorm Universe separately. 15 cards per pack. 36 packs per box. Fits perfectly with the Image CCG.

9705-0362 **Wildstorm CCG Image Universe Exp Boosters** \$90.00 45%
A 220 card expansion to the hot Image CCG set. Art by all of the Image founders including Lee, McFarlane and others.

GODZILLA

9705-0363 **Godzilla Vs. Mothra Movie Book** \$21.95 40%
It's a story book devoted to the most recent GODZILLA vs. MOTHRA book.

9705-0364 **History of Godzilla CD Volume 2** \$32.95 25%
Over 45 minutes of music and sound bites from the king of monsters film career.

9705-0365 **Mothra Movie Picture Book** \$22.95 40%
A behind-the-scenes look at the new Mothra movie as well as the history of Mothra. Japanese text.

9705-0366

ANIME VIDEOS

9705-0367 [M] **Black Jack: Clinical Chart #1 Dubbed** bb \$19.95 40%
\$16.95 40%
The first in a new series of six OAV videos by Osamu Tezuka. Black Jack is a very expensive killer, who can't stay out of trouble.

9705-0368 **The Dark Myth: Part 2** ff \$19.95 40%
A complex tale of creeping horror and dark omens. 50 minutes in English.

9705-0369 [R] **The Dark Myth: Part 1** ff \$19.95 40%
The first half of this horrific tale is still available.

9705-0370 [M] **Darkside Blues Video Subtitled** bb \$29.95 40%
From the creator of Vampire Hunter D comes a new futuristic gothic tale of horror and science fiction. 83 minutes.

9705-0371 [M, R] **801 T.T.S. Airbats Video Subtitled** Aa \$24.95 40%
What happens when the first male flight maintenance joins an all female crew? Must you ask? 3 complete episodes. 85 minutes.

Code Description	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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- 9705-0372 [M, R] Girl from Phantasia aa \$19.95 40%
When is a rug not a rug? When it is a gateway to another dimension. Thus the fun starts. 35 minutes.
- 9705-0373 [M] Neon Genesis: 0:5 Evangelion Subtitled aa 29.95 40%
There's trouble afoot when an angel splits in two. 60 minutes of anime mayhem.
- 9705-0374 [M] Neon Genesis: 0:5 Evangelion Dubbed aa \$24.95 40%
60 minutes of anime mayhem. Same as above except dubbed in English.
- 9705-0375 [M] Golden Boy 3 Videos Subtitled aa \$24.98 40%
30 minutes of action, mayhem, and a virgin's first love. You can't go wrong. Based on the popular manga.
- 9705-0376 [M] Golden Boy 3 Videos Dubbed aa \$19.98 40%
Same as above but dubbed.
- 9705-0377 [A] Orchid Emblem Video [Adult] bb \$29.95 40%
An adult only wrestling love story. A pair of enemies who were once lovers are bound by a Dragon Sex Tattoo.
- 9705-0378 Patlabor: The New OAV Volume 3 Subtitled \$29.95 40%
Episodes 8-10 of the New Files. Includes The Seven Days of Fire, Verses, and "it's Called Amnesia".
- 9705-0379 Pretty Sammy 2 (Tenchi and Friends) Subtitled \$29.98 40%
Pretty Sammy, the magical girl is back and she afflicts the whole Tenchi Muyo universe. Subtitled.
- 9705-0380 Pretty Sammy 2 (Tenchi and Friends) Dubbed \$24.98 40%
Same as above but dubbed.
- 9705-0381 Pretty Sammy 2 (Tenchi and Friends) LD \$39.98 20%
Same as above but on a Laser Disc.
- 9705-0382 Street Fighter II tv Series: Volume 4 Subtitled \$24.95 40%
The series that explores the early lives of the Street Fighters continues. Subtitled.
- 9705-0383 Street Fighter II tv Series: Volume 4 Dubbed \$19.95 40%
Same as above but dubbed.

ANIMATION CELS

- 9705-0384 Orchid Emblem Cel/Female bb \$50.00 35%
A production cell from Orchid Emblem with a female on it.
- 9705-0385 Orchid Emblem Cel/Male bb \$50.00 35%
A production cell from Orchid Emblem with a male on it.
- 9705-0386 [A] Orchid Emblem Cel/Body bb \$50.00 35%
A production cell from Orchid Emblem, but this cell will be from the naughty part of the video.
- 9705-0387 [A] Orchid Emblem Cel/Nude bb \$50.00 35%
One production cell featuring at least one female from Orchid Emblem, nude or partially nude.

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Ranma ½ Laser Disc's			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ranma ½ : Desperately Seeking Shampoo	LD	\$39.95	30%
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SUPPLIES			
These boxes are designed just like the classic "Comic Defence System". Each box folds the same and			
is the same thickness and strength. The only thing missing is the logo.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Long Comic Boxes 1-99		\$2 . 75	0%
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<input type="checkbox"/> Long Comix Boxes 500 or more.	CALL		0%
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<input type="checkbox"/> Idealites (1 ml.) Packed in 100's. Modern		\$68 . 01	0%
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A vinyl doll that is over 11" tall. Plus he has C3PO on his back.

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A vinyl doll that is over 10 3/4" tall. Removable helmet to show his real head.

Darth Vader Doll \$25.95 40%
A vinyl doll of the hero of the new Shadows of the Empire saga.

Han Solo Doll \$19.95 40%
A vinyl doll that is over 10" tall. Hans is dressed as a Stormtrooper. Removable helmet.

Luke Skywalker Doll \$19.95 40%
A vinyl doll that is over 9 1/4" tall. Plus he has Yoda on his back.

Xizor Vinyl Doll \$19.95 40%
A vinyl doll of the villain of the new Shadows of the Empire saga.

Box PVC Set w/Boba Fet. Exclusive to FM! Limited number left! \$ 24.95 40%
A boxed set of 7 different PVC's w/stand. This set has the rare Bobo Fet. Each box numbered.

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Best of El Hazard (cd) \$15.98 25%
13 tracks in both English and Japanese from EL HAZARD. Runs 65 minutes.

Best of Moldiver (cd) \$15.98 25%
13 tracks in both English and Japanese from MOLDIVER. Runs 65 minutes.

Best of Phantom Corps (cd) \$15.98 25%
13 tracks in both English and Japanese from PHANTOM CORPS. Runs 65 minutes.

Chisa And Heaven & Earth Band: Live in L.A. (cd) \$15.98 25%
A CD recording from this hit recording group from Japan. See the video later in this catalog.

Pioneer Animation Best of the Best (cd) \$15.98 25%
The best songs from your favorite Anime series but in English. Runs over 70 minutes long.

Tenchi Muyo! Christmas Album Import (cd) \$25.00 25%
The first Christmas album in Anime history. Includes all of the voice actors from the series.

Tenchi Muyo! Live Tour '96 Import (cd) \$30.00 25%
A live recording from 1996 of the voice actors from the hit series doing tunes from the series.

Tenchi Muyo! TV Series #1 Import (cd) \$25.00 25%
The first album to come from the TV show that debuted in last year. All new tunes.

Watch-Pioneer LDC OVA Greatest Hits Import Vol. 1 (cd) \$25.00 25%
The greatest hits from Pioneer's OVA series. Includes Moldiver, Tenchi, Pretty Sammy, others

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Instructions: This certificate should be completed by the purchaser and given to the seller for retention as part of the seller's records.

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(Remains in force until canceled by the purchaser or the department.)

I HEREBY CERTIFY: That I hold Seller's Permit No. _____ * Issued pursuant to the Wisconsin sales and use tax law, and that I am engaged in the business of selling, leasing, or renting:

(DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY OR SERVICE)

That the tangible personal property or taxable service described herein which I shall purchase from:

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will be resold, leased, or rented by me; provided, however, that in the event any such property is used for any purpose other than retention, demonstration, or display while holding it for sale, lease, or rental in the regular course of business, I understand that I am required by the sales and use tax law to report and pay the tax measured by the purchase price of such property.

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A "Continuous" certificate giving a general description of the kind of property purchased is good until revoked in writing. If a purchaser, who has given a "Continuous" certificate, asserts that he is buying for resale property of a kind not normally resold in his business, the seller should ask for a "Single Purchase" resale certificate listing the specific property.

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PURCHASER'S SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

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To:**From:****Date:** October 7, 1997**Pages:** 6**Subject:** Sales Figures for October 1997**To All,**

Enclosed are the estimated sales figures for the top 200 comic books sold through Diamond Distribution in October 1997. As always, it is important to point out that these sales represent pre-orders through Diamond only, and do not include advance reorders (usually sales increase approximately 2% in the two weeks after preorders are available), reorders, mail order, or non-direct-market sales (which is significant for companies such as Archie). One point of interest - it appears that a large number of comics saw increases in sales or negligible decreases in sales during the month of October, which is somewhat unusual. Could the direct market be on the upswing?

Sincerely,

(b)(7)c

Top-selling Comics for October 1997, based on pre-orders
through Diamond Distributors

#	Title	Publisher	estimated # sold (1000's)	(b)(5)
1	Uncanny X-Men #350 prism cv	Marvel	167.9	+5.7%
2	X-Man #70	Marvel	163.4	+3.3%
3	Heroes Reborn Return #1 (*)	Marvel	157.2	
4	Spawn #67	Image	153.1	+6.8%
5	Heroes Reborn Return #2	Marvel	142.5	-9.4%
6	Heroes Reborn Return #4	Marvel	141.1	+0.4%
7	Heroes Reborn Return #3	Marvel	140.5	-1.4%
8	Witchblade #18 (*)	Image	131.8	+47.4%
9	Wolverine #119	Marvel	124.6	-0.2%
10	JLA #13	DC	108.9	+4.6%
11	Wolverine Days of Future #1	Marvel	104.1	
12	Darkness #9	Image	103.2	0.0
13	Curse of the Spawn #14	Image	99.8	+5.3%
14	Generation X #33	Marvel	95.4	-0.6%
15	Creech #1	Image	92.1	
16	X-Man #33	Marvel	86.3	-1.7%
17	X-Force #72	Marvel	83.0	-1.0%
18	X-Men Unlimited #17	Marvel	82.1	-4.4%
19	X-Factor #140	Marvel	81.5	-1.7%
20	Cable #49	Marvel	80.7	-0.4%
21	Gen 13 #24	Image	80.4	-2.4%
22	Incredible Hulk #459	Marvel	74.8	+0.5%
23	Ascension #2	Image	72.8	-30.6%
24	Divine Right #2(*)	Image	69.6	-32.5%
25	Amazing Spiderman #429	Marvel	67.7	-0.4%
26	Gambit #4	Marvel	65.7	-1.1%
27	Excalibur #115	Marvel	64.8	-2.0%
28	New Mutants #2	Marvel	61.6	-15.7%
29	Alpha Flight #5	Marvel	60.1	-3.8%
30	Peter Parker Spiderman #86	Marvel	60.0	-1.0%
31	Superman #130	DC	59.2	-2.1%
32	Unlimited Access #1	Marvel	58.9	
33	Spectacular Spiderman #252	Marvel	57.9	-0.7%
34	Kiss Psycho Circus #4	Image	57.4	+10.8%
35	Superman Man of Steel #74	DC	57.1	-1.7%
36	Action Comics #740	DC	57.0	-2.1%
37	Adventures of Superman #553	DC	56.8	-2.2%
38	Batman #549	DC	55.1	+1.3%
39	Sensational Spiderman #22	Marvel	53.6	-0.7%
40	Tangent Comics Green Lant #1	DC	53.2	
41	Tangent Comics Joker #1	DC	53.2	
42	Deadpool #11	Marvel	52.6	-0.8%
43	Tangent Comics Flash #1	DC	51.4	
44	Batman Long Halloween #13	DC	51.1	+2.6%
45	Kitty Pryde Agent Shield #1	Marvel	51.1	
46	Xena Warrior Pr #0 photo cv	Topps	50.6*	
47	Quicksilver #2 (2 covers)	Marvel	50.2	-9.7%
48	Tangent Comics Nightwing #1	DC	50.0	
49	Detective Comics #716	DC	48.9	-0.2%
50	Tangent Comics Atom #1	DC	48.0	
51	Batman Predator III Blood #2	DC	47.6	-12.5%
52	Tangent Comics Secret Six #1	DC	47.6	
53	Tangent Comics Sea Devils #1	DC	47.4	

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54	Tangent Comics Doom Pat #1	DC	46.7
55	Tangent Comics Metal Man #1	DC	46.7
56	Thunderbolts #9	Marvel	46.3 +0.4t
57	Green Lantern #93	DC	45.5 0.0
58	Gen 13 Bootleg #12	Image	44.9 -0.7t
59	Gen 13 Interactive #1	Image	44.5
60	Preacher #32	DC	44.3 -0.7t
61	Gen 13 3-D Special #1	Image	43.9
62	Sabretooth One-Shot	Marvel	43.3
63	Stormwatch #1 (*)	Image	42.9 +70.9t
64	Batman Legends Dark Kn #101	DC	42.4 -23.5t
65	Supergirl #16	DC	42.4 +0.5t
66	Tenth #2	Image	42.3 -19.4t
67	Gaiman & Vess Stardust #1	DC	42.0
68	Nightwing #15	DC	41.9 +1.9t
69	Lady Death Becomes Her #0	Chaos	41.8
70	Flash #132	DC	41.2 -3.5t
71	X-Files #35	Topps	41.2* -1.2t
72	Batman Shadow of the Bat #69	DC	40.8 +2.8t
73	Maverick #4	Marvel	40.6 +1.5t
74	Star Wars Dark Force Ris #6	DHC	39.0 -1.3t
75	Ka-Zar #8	Marvel	38.5 -2.8t
76	Catwoman #52	DC	37.8 +0.5t
77	Wonder Woman #128	DC	37.7 +4.4t
78	Man-Thing #1	Marvel	36.8
79	Wildcats #43	Image	36.8 -1.1t
80	Phantom Guard #1 (*)	Image	36.6
81	Robin #48	DC	36.5 +0.8t
82	Heroes For Hire #6	Marvel	36.5 -2.4t
83	Shi Vampirella #1	Crusade	35.9* +5.0t
84	Kabuki #1 (*)	Image	35.5 +312.1
85	Star Wars Fall of Sith #5	DHC	34.5 -0.9t
86	Batman Phantom Stranger #1	DC	34.1
87	Elektra #13	Marvel	33.3 -2.1t
88	DV8 #12	Image	33.2 -2.9t
89	Arcanum #6	Image	33.0 -5.4t
90	Mage The Hero Undefined #4	Image	32.5 +3.8t
91	Marvel Team-Up #4	Marvel	32.0 -3.9t
92	Silver Surfer #134	Marvel	31.6 -1.6t
93	Starman #37	DC	31.3 +1.3t
94	Shi #3	Crusade	30.3* -2.9t
95	Star Wars X-Wing Empires #3	DHC	30.3 +0.3t
96	Azrael #36	DC	29.9 +2.7t
97	Daredevil #370	Marvel	29.7 +0.7t
98	Aquaman #39	DC	29.6 +1.4t
99	What If? #103	Marvel	29.6 +7.6t
100	Venom Finale #2	Marvel	29.3 -8.7t
101	DV8 vs Black Ops #1	Image	29.0
102	Creeper #1	DC	28.7
103	Conan the Usurper #1	Marvel	28.2
104	Hellblazer Books of Magic #1	DC	27.9
105	Journey Into Mystery #515	Marvel	27.1 -7.5t
106	Hitman #21	DC	27.0 -0.4t
107	Kents #5	DC	26.8 -7.3t
108	Destiny Chronicle Deaths #2	DC	26.6 -11.6t
109	Robin Plus #2	DC	26.6
110	Wetworks #34	Image	26.2 -4.0t
111	Impulse #32	DC	26.2 -1.1t
112	Superboy #46	DC	25.8 -3.0t

(b)(5)

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113	Hellshock #8	Image	25.6	-12.3%**
114	Legion of Superheroes #99	DC	25.6	+2.0%
115	Dreaming #19	DC	25.2	-1.6%
116	Savage Dragon #42	Image	25.0	+2.9%
117	Legionnaires #55	DC	24.6	+0.4%
118	Predator vs Judge Dredd #1	DHC	24.5	
119	Coven #3	Awesome	23.9	+14.4%
120	Books of Magic #43	DC	23.6	-0.4%
121	X-Files Season One Squeeze	Topps	23.0*	
122	Spiderman Manga #1	Marvel	22.5	
123	Batman Robin Adventures #25	DC	22.3	+4.2%
124	Evil Ernie Destroyer #2	Chaos	22.1	-12.6%
125	Strangers in Paradise #10	Abstract	22.0*	-1.3%
126	Vampirella Dracula Centenn	Harris	21.7*	
127	Simpsons Comics #33	Bongo	21.5*	+3.9%*
128	Wildstorm Halloween 97 #1	Image	21.3	
129	Kirby's Fourth World #10	DC	21.1	0.0
130	Resurrection Man #8	DC	21.0	+2.9%
131	Aliens Resurrection #1	DHC	20.9	
132	Aliens Alchemy #2	DHC	20.5	-11.3% (b)(5)
133	Ash Cinder Smoke #6 (2 cvrs)	Event	19.9*	-7.4%
134	Hawk and Dove #2	DC	19.8	-17.5%
135	Hellboy Jr Halloween Special	DHC	19.7	
136	Invisibles #11	DC	19.7	+2.1%
137	Power of Shazam #33	DC	19.5	+1.6%
138	Green Arrow #127	DC	19.3	-28.3%
139	Kaboom #2	Awesome	19.1	-20.1%
140	Star Trek Voyager #12	Marvel	18.8	-3.1%
141	Ghost Rider #91	Marvel	18.7	-4.1%
142	Star Trek Deep Space 9 #13	Marvel	18.7	-6.0%
143	Hellblazer #120	DC	18.7	+5.1%
144	Spectre #60	DC	18.5	+2.8%
145	Star Trek Starfleet Aca #13	Marvel	18.3	-6.2%
146	Star Trek Early Voyages #11	Marvel	18.3	-3.7%
147	Superman Adventures #14	DC	18.2	-1.6%
148	House of Secrets #15	DC	18.2	-1.6%
149	Wildcats X-Men Silver 3-D #1	Image	18.2	
150	Adventures in DC Univ #9	DC	17.9	-1.6%
151	Lobo #46	DC	17.7	+1.7%
152	Superboy and Ravers #16	DC	17.6	-1.1%
153	Supreme #54	Awesome	17.1	+0.6%
154	Painkiller Jane #5 (2 cvrs)	Event	16.8*	-16.4% (b)(5)
155	Sandman Mystery Theatre #57	DC	16.8	0.0
156	Moorcock's Multiverse #2	DC	16.5	-19.5%
157	Young Heroes in Love #7	DC	16.5	-3.5%
158	Starship Troopers #1	DHC	16.4	
159	Grandal Tales Devils App #2	DHC	16.3	-4.1%
160	Sovereign Seven #29	DC	16.3	0.0
161	Chaos Nightmare Theatre #1	Chaos	15.8	
162	Chaos Nightmare Theatre #2	Chaos	15.5	-1.9%
163	Transmetropolitan #4	DC	15.5	+4.0%
164	Chaos Nightmare Theatre #4	Chaos	15.4	0.0
165	Chaos Nightmare Theatre #3	Chaos	15.4	-0.6%
166	Terminal City Aerial Gr #2	DC	15.1	-11.7%
167	Steel #45	DC	15.0	+2.0%
168	Major Summer #5	DC	14.5	0.0
169	Zombieworld Champion Worm #2	DHC	14.5	-21.6%
170	Ghost #30	DHC	14.4	0.0
171	Union Final Vengeance #1	Image	13.8	

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172	Kelley Jones The Hammer #1	DHC	13.8	
173	Bloody Mary Lady Liberty #4	DC	13.7	-5.5t
174	Oh My Goddess Special Lunch	DHC	13.2	+2.3t
175	2020 Visions #8	DC	13.1	-5.8t
176	Squee #3	SLG	12.9*	+6.6t**
177	Master Darque	Acclaim	12.8	
178	X-O Manowar #13	Acclaim	12.2	-6.2t
179	Red Rocket 7 #3	DHC	11.8	-9.9t
180	Solar Hell on Earth #2	Acclaim	11.6	-15.3t
181	Neon Genesis Evangel #2 (*)	Viz	11.6*	-20.0t
182	Nexus Nightmare in Blue #4	DHC	11.4	-3.4t
183	Ranma 1/2 VI #11	Viz	11.4*	0.0*
184	Blade of the Immortal Dr #4	DHC	11.3	+1.8t
185	Sergio Aragones Louder #4	DHC	11.3	-7.4t
186	Poison Elves #28	sirius	11.3*	-1.7t
187	Angel Fire #3	Crusade	11.3*	-16.9t
188	Elfquest #17	Warp	10.7*	+0.9t
189	Cerebus #223	Aardvark	10.5*	0.0
190	Challengers of Unknown #11	DC	10.5	0.0
191	Trinity Angels #8	Acclaim	10.3	-5.5t
192	Quantum and Woody #9	Acclaim	10.1	+1.0t
193	Ess. Vertigo Sandman #17	DC	10.1	0.0
194	Desperadoes #2	Image	9.6	-21.3t
195	Battle Angel Alita VII #5	Viz	9.6*	+23.1t
196	Magnus Robot Fighter #10	Acclaim	9.4	-3.1t
197	Man Called A X #3	DC	9.3	-13.9t
198	ERB Tarzan Tooth and Nail #1	DHC	9.2	+1.1t
199	Shadowman #12	Acclaim	9.1	-8.1t
200	Sonic the Hedgehog #54	Archie	9.1	+5.8t

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(*) - represents cumulative sales including variant editions
 (such as variant covers or Image "Voyager Packs") which
 may or may not be available through Diamond.

...and the top-selling comics from companies that did not quite make it into the top 200.

203	Shotgun Mary Son of Beast #1	Antarctic	9.0*
204	Jon Sable #1	Caliber	9.0*
212	Adventurous Uncle Scrooge #1	Gladstone	7.9*
224	New Bondage Fairies #12	FBI	7.0*
225	Venus Domina Illustrations	Verotik	7.0*
237	Tales From The Crypt #22	Gemstone	6.2
240	Hari Kari Resurrection #1	Blackout	6.0*
241	Razor Uncut #41	LNS	5.8
258	Plastic Little #3	CPM	5.0*
259	Tzu the Reaper #2	Murim	5.0*
270	Deity #2	Hyperworks	4.5*
271	Bone #24 reprint	Cartoon	4.5*
273	Death Angel #1 (2 cvrs)	Lightning	4.5*
277	Pete the PO'd Postal Worker	Shadowhouse	4.3*
286	New Vampire Miyu #2	Ironcat	4.1*
290	Snowman Dead and Dying #1	Avatar	3.9*
294	Coven 13 #3	No Mercy	3.7*

The "estimated number sold" is an estimate of the total number of copies pre-ordered through Diamond Distribution, in thousands. PLEASE NOTE: This figure does not include advance reorders, reorders, or sales outside of Diamond.

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Distribution. Comics marked with an asterisk (*) by their sales estimate are not exclusive to Diamond, and may be available to the direct market through other sources.

The "change" is an estimate of the percentage change over the previous issue. An asterisk (*) indicates the previous issue was published two months ago (August), and a double asterisk (**) indicates the previous issue was published three or more months ago. Note that a change of TWO PERCENT OR LESS is statistically insignificant, and nothing should be inferred from very small increases or decreases in sales.

Comic Book Market Share by dollar value, October 1997:

Publisher	Comic Books	All Products
Marvel	28.31%	22.40%
DC	24.91%	21.59%
Image	14.63%	12.87%
Dark Horse	5.37%	4.34%
Wizard Press	3.37%	2.66%
Topps Comics	2.28%	2.51%
Chaos	1.57%	1.25%
Acclaim	1.26%	1.00%
Viz	1.20%	1.15%
Fantagraphics	1.01%	
Kenner/Hasbro		3.83%
Other	16.30%	26.42%

Note: This information was obtained from Diamond Distribution's DIAMOND DIALOGUE, which publishes various sales charts every month, and is available to comic book retailers. This listing includes sales of all comic books sold through Diamond, which constitutes 98-99% of all direct market comic book sales. I make no claims as to the accuracy of any of the information on these charts, and only provide estimates based on the available information. Additional information and charts for previous months are available at:
<http://www.texas.net/~antarc/salescharts.html>

Special note: The figures in this chart were calculated using an order index of 1 + 551 comics sold (based on preliminary sales figures from September 12th). Traditionally advance reorders add approximately 2% (sometimes more, sometimes less) to a book's total sales within two weeks after this date.

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December 1997

FM International RequestLine



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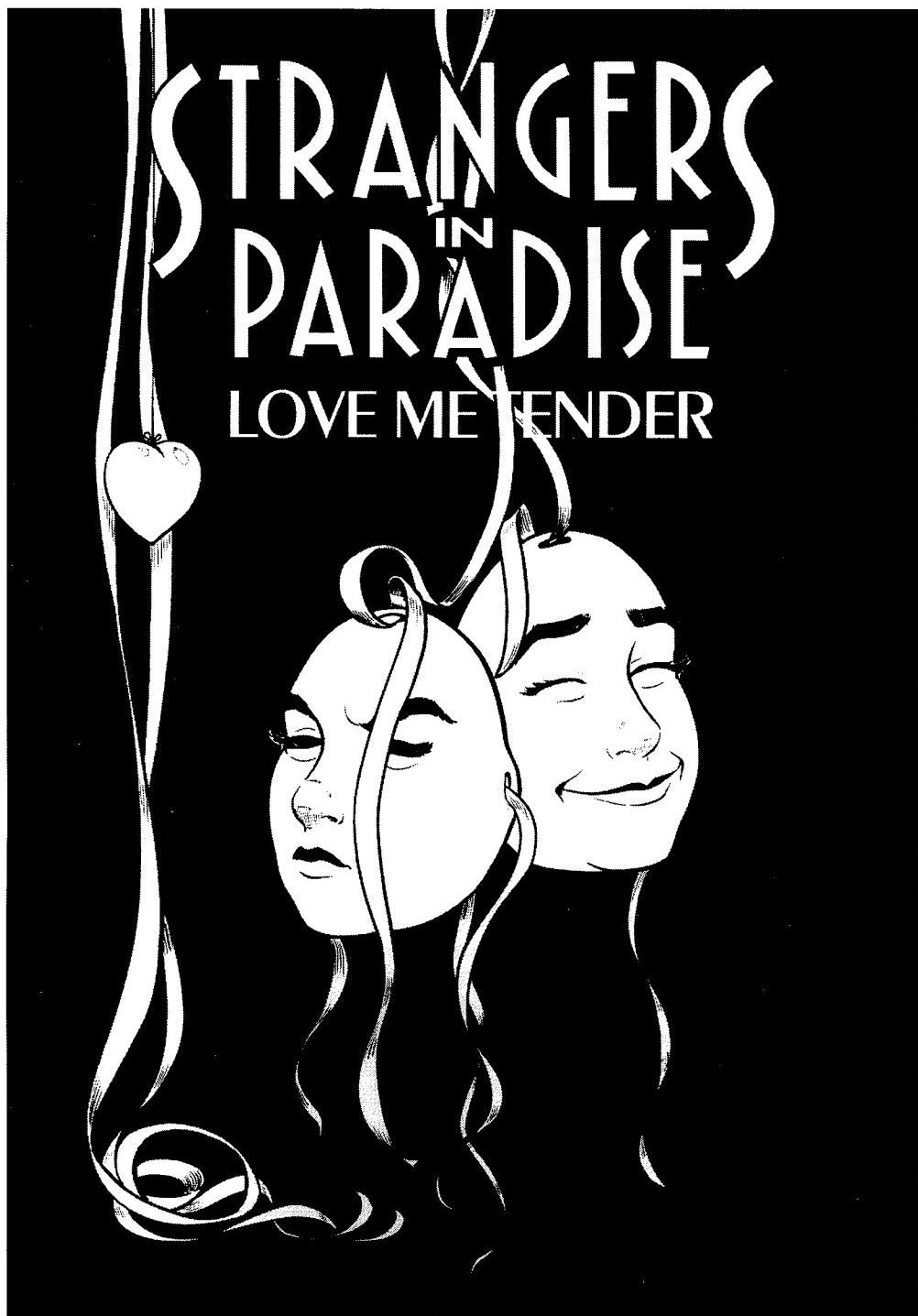
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General trade terms on all orders from this catalog.

Resale certificate and account information form. A Customer Application and Resale Certificate Form is required before you can order from FM International, Inc. By placing an order with FM International, Inc., you are attesting that you are of legal age and have the authority to open an account with us. Retailers with whom we are not familiar may be asked to verify their retailer status by providing a tear sheet of an actual advertisement or a photograph of a storefront.

Order Due Date. The order due date for this months catalog is shown on the front cover. Order forms returned after the order due date will be filled with extras, if available.

Payment terms. Unless other arrangements are made, all domestic orders are shipped COD and all international orders must be prepaid in full. To make other arrangements, submit a completed credit application to FM International, Inc.. Limited credit can be earned through a good history of payments to FM International, Inc.. Any past due account will be charged 1½ % per month interest or the maximum permitted by law, whichever is less. Customers are also liable for any expenses, including but not limited to, attorneys or collection fees, which FM International, Inc. incurs to collect past due accounts.

Freight. Freight charges for shipments to customers in the continental United States will be based on the weight of the product in the shipment with customers paying the best rates possible. Charges for C.O.D. tags are not included in any quote. For more information about shipping, contact a customer representative at (608) 271-7922.

Company checks. We will accept your company check provided that no more than one check per six month period fails to clear your bank the first time it is submitted, unless we, in our sole discretion, deem a check is not acceptable. If a check is returned to us, all shipments will be held until the check is made good. Any returned check not replaced within seven days will result in the account being closed, unless prior arrangements have been made. There will be a \$25 charge for any check returned for any reason other than bank error.

Shipping. Unless otherwise indicated, we will use UPS for all domestic shipments. We can also use air, bus, truck, courier services, or mail. Please contact FM International, Inc. for more information. Domestic customers may choose to ship either once or twice weekly. Customers have the option to pick up their orders at the warehouse, and by doing so, avoid freight costs. FM International, Inc. does not guarantee the services of any particular transportation method or company. Information we provide regarding carriers is based on information we receive from them. FM International, Inc. is not liable for any damages related to the use of any particular transportation method or company.

Returns/Shortages/Damages. All orders are sold non-returnable. Returns due to miss-shipments or damages must be pre-approved in writing. To get a Returns Authorization, call (608) 271-7922.

All orders are subject to product availability. You agree to accept such partial deliveries. At the time you report the shortage, indicate whether you want the merchandise (if available) or a credit against future purchases. Also, we appreciate your honesty in reporting and returning any un-invoiced over-shipments. We will credit you for freight costs incurred in returning such over-shipments if you enclose a note with your return itemizing your costs. Merchandise damages from transit may be returned for credit. However, please receive your packages carefully. If there is visible damage to the outside of the box, you must note that fact when you sign for the package. If this is not done, it is impossible to get credit for the damaged merchandise from the carrier. At the time you report the damages, indicate whether you want the merchandise replaced or a credit issued. Do not deduct credit from your payment before we issue you a credit memo unless authorized by FM International, Inc..

Governing Law. This agreement shall be interpreted under and governed by the laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin. Any action arising out of, or related to, or connected with this agreement shall be commenced in the Circuit Court for Dane County, Wisconsin, or the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. You consent to the jurisdiction of these courts over your person and to the venue of these courts.

Failure to enforce any of these trade terms does not waive our right to enforcement of them in the future. If any part, term, or provision of this agreement is invalid or unenforceable, the validity of the remaining portions shall not be affected.

Catalog Information. The information in the RequestLine, including, but not limited to, prices, availability, suitability for immature readers, product safety, and release or shipment dates, is based on information we receive from the supplier of the product. FM International, Inc. makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy of any of this information. In the event that items are solicited incorrectly, or change after solicitation, we will attempt to ship items in the most effective way. All accounts will be alerted in advance before product ships.

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Codes. Listings in the RequestLine may contain a letter code prior to the titles. These codes represent special circumstances and information regarding solicitations.

[A] = Adult Content. Only for people over 18 year of age.

[M] = For Mature Readers. Recommended for mature audiences. Similar to an R rated movie.

[R] = Re-Listed. This is a product that has been offered in the past and is being offered once again.

[Res] = Re-Solicitation. This is a product where all previous orders are cancelled. Order this if you still want this product.

[L] = Limited. Full orders may not be filled. A limited number of this product is available. Allocations may occur.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher				
Description				

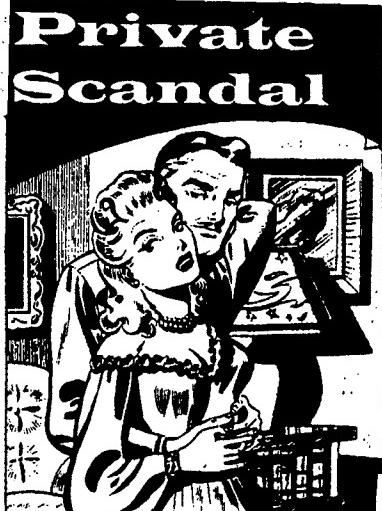
COMICS

A LIST COMICS

- 199712-0001 Planet Comics #3 \$2.95 45%
Another issue reprinting stories from the great Fiction House comics. This issue has a great cover of a woman rescuing a man for a change.



- 199712-0002 Hollywood Confidential #1 \$2.95 45%
A new issue reprinting these long forgotten stories about lust, betrayal, and death. Fun reprints from the 40's and 50's.



A.M. WORKS

- 199712-0003 [M] Athena #14 \$2.95 50%
It is the big showdown between Athena and Apollo. It's the shocking final issues of Athena; will she sacrifice everything to stop Apollo?
- 199712-0004 [M] Pervert Club #11 \$2.95 50%
The leader of the Pervert Club has lost her friends, her self-esteem, and her mission to create a fetishists' paradise out of her high school. The only person not to abandon her is her worst enemy, April Peabody. But is April here to help her or kick her?

AARDVARK VANAHEIM

- 199712-0005 Cerebus #225 \$2.25 50%
"Rick's Story: Part 6 of 12". Maybe it was the blow to the head, or Cerebus' haranguing monologue, or all the stout he had to drink...but Rick is acting pretty strange (that is, even stranger than usual).



AARDWOLF PUBLISHING

- 199712-0006 Stranger Kaddish Limited Edition \$12.95 45%
Over 100 pages of story and art by the best. Story contributors include Neil Gaiman, Harlen Ellison, Peter Davis and others. All of these stories are illustrated by the likes of Dave Cockrum and Gray Morrow. Limited to 5000 copies.

ABACULUS

- 199712-0007 Gyre #1 \$2.95 45%
Jake Guyler is one of the most powerful men alive and he is wanted by just about everybody under the sun. There is but one problem, no has told Jake yet. Shipp/Laming

ANOTHER BAD CREATION ENTERTAINMENT

- 199712-0008 [M] Raising Hell #2 \$2.95 45%
 199712-0009 [M] Raising Hell #2 Live Nude Model Edition \$14.95 45%
China and Jazz keep doing what they do best, kicking butt! Plus the return of the Rattler!

- 199712-0010 [M] The Enrique E. Carralero Collection \$4.50 45%
 199712-0011 [M] The Enrique E. Carralero Collection Live Nude Model Edition \$14.95 45%
A collection of Ricky Carralero's erotic bad girl art. Photos of the girls he uses as models. Also, an interview with Ricky discussing his background and what happened with High Impact Studios. Comes polybagged with a Chromium Card.

- 199712-0012 [M] China Exposed: The Video \$29.95 35%
Now you can see even more of the beautiful model China. Also, lots of other models prancing on the beach in South Florida. Plus an interview with Ricky Carralero.

- 199712-0013 [M] Guillotin #1 Quesada Cover \$3.00 45%
 199712-0014 [M] Guillotin #1 Carralero Cover \$6.00 45%
In a tranquil world, an army of darkness led by the ultimate evil rises from the wastelands, annihilating everything in its path. A brotherhood of men takes their stand, dying for their honor until a new hero is born. Behold Prince Guillotin, son of Olympus.

- 199712-0015 [M] Guillotin #1 Gold Polybagged Edition \$10.00 45%
A special gold logo edition that comes with a Guillotin card and it is limited to 1000 copies.

ABSTRACT STUDIOS

- 199712-0016 Strangers In Paradise Vol. 3 #11 \$2.75 50%
Goodbye Katchoo! Hello Julie Wells! Forced by Darcy to work one last job for her criminal operation, Katchoo goes undercover with a new identity to set up the political sting of the century. Terry Moore. Recommended.

____ 199712-0017 **Strangers In Paradise Vol. 4: Love Me Tender** \$12.95 50%
 The first five issues published by Homage are now available as a trade paperback! It opens with a beautiful five-page dream sequence by Jim Lee and then the rest of the book goes to beautiful black and white for the first time. Taking color out of a book, Ted Turner would be proud. Highly recommended. This book will sell for years.

____ 199707-1095 [R] **Strangers In Paradise Vol. 1** \$8.95 50%
 ____ 199707-1096 [R] **Strangers In Paradise Vol. 2: I Dream of You** \$16.95 50%
 ____ 199707-1097 [R] **Strangers In Paradise Vol. 3: It's A Good Life** \$8.95 50%
 Now you can read it all at once and see what a brilliant series this really is. Great reading.

____ 199712-0018 **Strangers In Paradise Gold Logo Ed.Vol. 2 #5** \$2.75 50%
 This issue reprints Vol. 2 #5 and has a gold logo. A great issue with the classic dream sequence that took place in Hawaii.

AC COMICS

____ 199712-0019 **AC Sci-Fi Pack** \$9.95 35%
 Three reprints of classic science fiction in one set. Includes Thrilling Science Tales #1 and #2. Plus Thrilling Wonder Tales #1.

____ 199712-0020 [L] **Femforce: Timestorm GN Deluxe Signed Ed.** \$14.95 35%
 Autographed by the entire creative team.

____ 199712-0021 **Femforce: Timestorm GN Deluxe Signed Plate** \$5.00 35%
 If you already have the graphic novel now you can get just the signed plate and insert it yourself.

____ 199712-0022 **Golden Age Greats 12: Thrilling Science Fiction** \$9.95 35%
 From the golden age of comics come science fiction stories by the true masters of the field. Includes contributions by Kirby, Reed Crandall, Al Williamson, Steve Ditko, Wally Wood, Bernie Krigstein and others. Wonderful stuff for fans of all ages.



____ 199712-0023 **Hero Hangout #1** \$2.50 45%
 From the pages of Femforce come the Multibolts. The wild and crazy team consisting of Blazebolt, Flexibolt, Zerobolt and Rumblebolt. If you flip this book over you get an all-new adventure with J Squad. Black/Gorby/Heike



____ 199712-0024 **Femforce "Rad" Resin Kit** \$125.00 30%
 A large (13") resin kit ready for assembly. Comes with easy to read comic-book format instructions. Very nice.

ACE COMICS

____ 199712-0025 **Love Sucks: The Color Special #1** \$2.95 50%
 A self continued single story in full color featuring the return of Wendy. Wendy was having a normal day until her rock-n-roll party girl friend shows up and abducts her and takes her back to all of her old haunts and bars. Santiago/Juch

____ 199712-0026 **Love Sucks: The Collector's Pack** \$9.95 50%
 What a deal! The original one shot plus the four issues that are currently out and a signed print to boot.

ADHESIVE COMICS

____ 199712-0027 **Too Much Coffee Man #1** \$2.95 50%
 In case you missed it, here it is again. The first issue with a few things inside tweaked to make it even better. As if!

AEON PRESS

____ 199712-0028 **Last Dangerous Christmas** \$5.95 50%
 An anthology with tales about Christmas by a variety of creators and all of the proceeds will go to charity. Contributors include Bill Sienkiewicz, Kaja Foglio, Matt Howarth, Sarah Byam, Charlie Wise, and many more.

____ 199712-0029 **Reporter** \$3.00 50%
 How real are the stories we tell? How perfectly can a writer mimic reality? These are the kinds of questions fueling Reporter, the new book from Dylan Williams.



____ 199712-0030 [M] **Those Annoying Post Brothers #50** \$2.95 50%
 The Post brothers go to the strange land of Ahu Wob, where physics are even more whacked out than on Bug-Town. Of course, Ron and Russ proceed to cause all sorts of havoc as they search for "Recondite Silicates".

ALTERNATE CONCEPTS

____ 199712-0031 **Legion of Stupid Heroes #2** \$2.50 50%
 More short gags and laughs in store as the Legion of Stupid heroes encounter new villains in the town of Buttfork, Michigan. Let's welcome The Bee Master and the Crop Dusting Desperado. Comedy in the style of Mad and Cracked.

AIX C.C.

____ 199712-0032 **Shadow Reigns: Renegade Soul #0** \$2.95 50%
 Jay is a young man with a drug problem. The GrenzSnger is a strange hunter on the verge of becoming the prey. New Zion is a city where dreams and nightmares may seep into your daily life and anything may happen. Hot lead, swordplay, monsters in the park, and a strange sort of initiation. Experience the magic. Setting the stage for the 10 issue series "Shadow Reigns: Interregnum". Story and art by Horus who did War of the Worlds for Caliber. Great art and a good story.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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AMAZE INK

____ 199712-0033 Everwinds #3 \$2.95 50%
The Wayward Fox Spirit finally gets a glimpse of his past life, but it's not quite what he expected. He returns to Everwinds only to find Fur Face's soul has been captured by an evil cyber-shaman! Steve Peters.



____ 199712-0034 Iliad #1 \$2.95 50%
Iliad Book One begins the series with the first of a two part exciting ongoing tale. The first is Ikarus, Greek mythology meets Romeo and Juliet. Then the legendary Journey of Toad.

____ 199712-0035 Skeleton Key #29 \$1.75 45%
The strange and the mundane meet among the snow banks of small town Canada in this fresh and charming monthly series.

____ 199712-0036 Wretch #4 \$2.95 50%
A new issue of the Wretch by Phillip Hester and Jim Woodyard. As with previous issues, this one defies description except to say it is one very strange superhero comic.

**ANTARCTIC PRESS**

____ 199712-0037 [Of 2] Creature #2 \$2.95 50%
Creature's Yakazu Masters have plans for her, that is if she survives the Ninja killer, Silence. Full color.

____ 199712-0038 Helter Skelter #4 \$2.95 50%
How will Kazuya be able to get through a day of high school when he is only 8 years old?

____ 199712-0039 Ninja High School #60 \$2.95 50%
Ichi and Amie are off to the mysterious Himalayas on a quest for two missing heroes: Amie's big brother and the mighty Dog Warrior who was once Jeremy's pet. Plus Ben Dunn's tale of Jeremy and Asrial in space continues.

____ 199708-0713 Ninja High School Tpb Vol. 1 \$14.95 50%
A new edition of this long out-of-print book. It collects Ninja High School #0-3 and the rare 3 1/2. All by Ben Dunn. 160 pages. Great stuff.

____ 199708-0717 [R] Ninja High School Tpb Vol. 7 \$7.95 50%
Reprints issues 22-24 of the original series.

____ 199712-0040 [R] Ninja High School Perfect Memory Vol. 1 \$5.95 50%
Everything you would ever want to know about NHS is in this book. Offered again.

____ 199712-0041 [R] Ninja High School Spotlight #1-R. De Jesus \$3.50 50%

____ 199712-0042 [R] Ninja High School Spotlight #2-Fred Perry \$2.95 50%

____ 199712-0043 [R] Ninja High School Spotlight #3-Ted Nomura \$3.50 50%

Collections of an individual artists NHS work.

____ 199712-0044 [A, Of 4] Nosferatu #1 \$2.95 50%
Nosferatu forces two young sisters to engage in acts of erotic desire. He then forces them to help him compose his final death mass, a symphony for the dead. Holden and Shelly Mass. Adults only.

____ 199712-0045 [Of 5] Redeemers #1 \$2.95 50%
Shotgun Mary, Tomorrow Man, Lillith, Night Hunter and the Magician. It's a super-hero team unlike any you have ever seen before as these bands of warriors go to hell. But can they get back out? Full color.

____ 199712-0046 [Of 2] Rheintochter #1 \$2.95 50%
A beautiful mini-series by Paquette and Lacombe, the team behind Topp's Space: Above and Beyond. It's 1527 and a warrior nun is confronted with a hoard of demons, but things are not as they seem. Full color.

____ 199712-0047 [Of 4] Robotech: Vermillion #3 \$2.95 50%
Lena and Rick are stranded on Lord Khyron's ship, and they are desperately trying to find a way off with being caught by the Zentraedi. Duc Tran.

____ 199712-0048 [A] Ultra Vixen CD-ROM Game \$39.95 35%
A beautiful, innocent college student is snatched out of time by the sex fiend overlord and thrust into a future hell of erotic slavery. She escapes and becomes Ultra-Vixen. Works on both PC and Macs.

____ 199712-0049 Warrior Nun Black and White #6 \$2.95 50%
The conclusion to Winter Jade. Plus a Shotgun Mary back-up strip. Some very nice art.

____ 199712-0050 Warrior Nun T-Shirt L \$16.95 40%
____ 199712-0051 Warrior Nun T-Shirt XL \$16.95 40%

A full color design by Ben Dunn on a short sleeve black shirt.

ARROW COMICS

____ 199712-0052 Arrow Anthology #1 \$3.95 50%
A new anthology that features a little of everything from Mark Bloodworth's "Night Streets" to an adaptation of Lewis Caroll's poem "The Jabberwocky". Plus lots more. A 48 pages of excitement.

____ 199712-0053 [Of 5] Dark Oz #1 \$2.75 50%
Continuing the series from Caliber. Suddenly things on Oz take a very dark and ominous turn as bad things start to happen. Introduces Stitch, the son of the Strawman, which leads to a turn of events that will change Oz forever. Be sure to look for a special OZ offer in the Caliber Section.

AVATAR PRESS

____ 199712-0054 [M] Donna Mia Infinity \$3.00 45%
____ 199712-0055 [M] Donna Mia Infinity Nude Cover \$4.95 45%
____ 199712-0056 [M] Donna Mia Infinity Leather Cover \$25.00 40%

In this special issue, Donna Mia explores the furthest regions of Hell itself, revealing much about her demonic side and its origins. But she may discover more than she bargained for in the dark vastness of hellish landscape. Also a nude cover and a leather cover by Trevlin Utz are available.

____ 199712-0057 [M, Of 2] Mercy #1 \$3.00 45%
From the pages of Nira X. Mercy is the new cyber angel for this temporal plain and her first mission is to travel through time to catch a criminal in mid-evil times on Earth. Will Mercy be able to complete her first mission before she ends up as cyberplasm? By Bill Maus.

____ 199712-0058 [M, Of 2] Mercy #1 Incentive \$0.00 0%
Order 10 copies of this book, you will get one gold copy. 2 for 20, 3 for 30, etc.

199712-0059 [M, Of 2] Mercy #1 Nude Cover	\$4.95	45%
A nude cover by Bill Maus.		
199712-0060 [M, Of 2] Mercy #1 Leather Cover	\$25.00	40%
A leather cover by Bill Maus. Limited to 700 copies.		
199712-0061 [M] Nira X: Special: Shoot First Signed	\$10.00	45%
Signed by Bill Maus and comes with an authenticating stamp and a certificate.		
199712-0062 [Of 3, M] Pandora: Pandemonium #1	\$3.00	45%
199712-0063 [Of 3, M] Pandora: Pandemonium Nude #1	\$4.95	45%
The demoness Maelstrom has been designed specifically to destroy the Girl of Myth, and she appears to be doing the job. Facing overwhelming odds, Pandora is forced to make a choice between her own imminent defeat and an unholy alliance. Will Maelstrom seduce Pandora to the dark side? Also available in a nude cover.		
199712-0064 [Of 3, M] Pandora: Pandemonium #1 Signed	\$10.00	45%
Signed by the creative team and comes with an authenticating stamp and a certificate.		
199712-0065 Pandora Art Print #1	\$10.00	45%
The cover to Pandora #0 by Scott Barnett on a glossy stock 11" x 17" print.		
199712-0066 [Of 3, M] Snowman: Dead and Dying #3	\$3.00	45%
Snowman finds his lair under relentless assault as Nira X and her team try to rescue the captive Gwynn. Just when it looks like things couldn't get worse for Snowman, Nira travels back in time to 1944 to rescue Tommy and brings something else back quite by accident.		
199712-0067 [Of 3, M] Snowman: Dead & Dying #3 Frozen Fear	\$4.95	45%
199712-0068 [Of 3, M] Snowman: Dead & Dying #3 White Velvet	\$25.	45%
Features a white cover with a new art by Matt Martin printed in gold foil.		
199712-0069 [M] Snowman 1944 Special Signed	\$10.00	45%
Signed by Matt Martin and comes with an authenticating stamp and a certificate.		
199712-0070 [M, Of 3] Widow: The Origin #2	\$3.00	45%
199712-0071 [M, Of 3] Widow: The Origin Nude Cover #2	\$4.95	45%
As a photographer and a young model arrive on the island of Professor Harlow, Emma learns more of her startling heritage. What is her true relation to the spider-monster known as Adam and why does it terrify her? All of this is by Mike Wolfer. A nude cover is also available. A great story with nice art. This book is worth your time to read.		
199712-0072 Widow Collectable Action Figure	\$12.95	35%
Mike Wolfer's alluring arachnid comes to life in this hyper-detailed figure from Avatar and Bolt Entertainment. Widow comes with four removable spider-legs, a total of 10 points of articulation, and her special cyber as an accessory! This stunning collectable is limited to 20,000 figures!		
199712-0073 Widow Collectable Action Figure Case	\$79.95	35%
As a special bonus, with every case (6 figures ordered) one figure will be a blue costume variant at no extra cost.		
199712-0074 Widow Collectable Action Figure-Gold Edition	\$15.95	35%
The same as above except for she is wearing a gold outfit and a different blister package than the standard figure. Limited to 4000 figures.		
199712-0075 Widow Collectable Action Figure Case-Gold	\$97.95	35%
A case of six of the above figures.		
199712-0076 Widow Premium Trading Cards	\$36.00	0%
This 90 card set features tons of the best new Widow artwork ever on pin-ups, main characters, rookies, and more stellar talent. Includes Mike Wolfer, Rick Lyon, Matt Martin, Bill Maus, Trevlin Utz and others. Special cards include 3 different signed cards, 5 enhanced chase cards, and 6 ultra scarce Red leather cards. Limited to 300 cases. 8 cards per pack. 32 packs per box. 10 boxes per case. For every box ordered, you will also get a Widow #0 Gold edition.		
199712-0077 Widow Premium Trading Cards Binder	\$19.95	40%
A high quality collectors binder with artwork on the front and back and has room for your entire Widow card set. Limited to 750 binders. Includes 9 pocket sheets.		
B.A.D.D. PRESS		
199712-0078 [M] The B.C. Ants #1	\$2.95	50%
Audwynn J. Newman hits the ground running with this dark tale of man-sized prehistoric ants, mysteriously and violently ripped from the war torn and divided world. Watch the residents of Cleveland in 2017 become easy prey for the many creatures that come from Newman's imagination.		

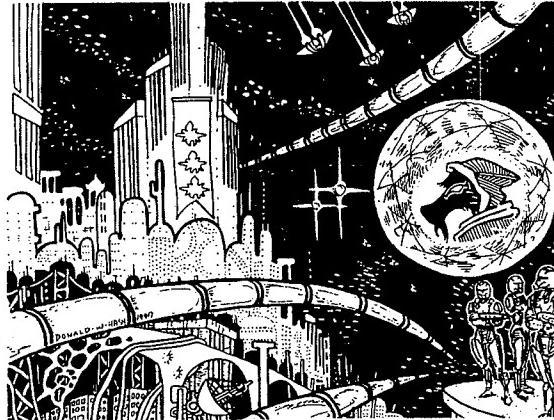
BLUE INFERNO STUDIOS

199712-0079 Age of Deities #1	\$2.75	45%
It's the 22nd century and the gods have returned to Earth. This new group of gods tries to take over mankind with less than thrilling results. Art is stiff.		

THE GREATEST COMIC SCIENCE FICTION EPIC OF ALL TIME!



GAURN CHRONICLES BROKEN HARMONY



BOB BURDEN PRODUCTIONS

199712-0080 Flaming Carrot Fun Pack	\$14.95	50%
A special deal of the century as only Flaming Carrot can produce. Issues #25-31 of Flaming Carrot, including the rare misprint of #30 at a low price. Plus Bob will throw in something special. In fact, it is so special he would not even tell us what it is. All issues are self-contained stories. A great buy. Also good for the Carrot novice. UT!		

199712-0081 1997 Mysterymen Zippo Lighters #2-Juno the Magnificent	\$29.95	40%
199712-0082 1997 Mysterymen Zippo Lighters #3-Super Destroyer		

These are very limited editions of Flaming Carrot Zippo Lighters. Each lighter is numbered and it comes with art on both sides of the lighter. Way cool.



Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher	Description			

- ____ 199712-0083 Mysterymen T-Shirts-1993 Dated Style 2 Jumo the Magnificent L \$16.95 40%
 ____ 199712-0084 Mysterymen T-Shirts-1993 Dated Style 2 Jumo the Magnificent XL \$16.95 40%
 ____ 199712-0085 Mysterymen T-Shirts-1993 Dated Style 2 Jumo the Magnificent XXL \$16.95 40%
 ____ 199712-0086 Mysterymen T-S 1997 Style 3 Super Destroyer L \$16.95 40%
 ____ 199712-0087 Mysterymen T-S 1997 Style 3 Super Destroyer XL \$16.95 40%
 ____ 199712-0088 Mysterymen T-S 1997 Style 3 Super Destroyer XXL \$16.95 40%
The Coolest Designs since the 1934 World's Fair! Hi-Quality, brand name T-shirts of 100% cotton. Each one is numbered. On the front is the image pictured and on the back is the phase "Live to Rule-Rule To Live; We Are the Mysterymen! Bob Burden Productions



BONEYARD PRESS

- ____ 199712-0089 Babylon Bondage Christmas \$2.95 45%
 ____ 199712-0090 Babylon Bondage Christmas Nude Cover \$3.95 45%

Everyone's favorite lesbian dominatrix vigilante is back with holiday theme stories. Santa meets the whip in a story by Hart Fisher and Dan Piegel. Rich Fuscia has a story about a Dominatrix and Christmas as well as a third story. Also a nude cover available.

- ____ 199712-0091 Body Bag Pack \$5.95 45%
Crime Pays #1 and #2 in a black body bag and comes with a death certificate. Violent stuff.

- ____ 199712-0092 Crime Pays #3 \$2.95 45%
Noeland Collins is set loose in a newly revised version of the Bull the Pain classic "Joey Doughnuts". Lots of action including an unbelievable car chase sequence. Also Bill Yukich and Jason Morgan's "Lubricant". Icky.

- ____ 199712-0093 Flowers of The Razorwire Bible Tales Special \$2.95 45%
An all-new volume of illustrated Bible tales, straight from the Good Book. This will tell of the man of the cloth's stomach and more! Art by Mikal Volmer, Bill Harms and more.

BONGO COMICS

- ____ 199712-0094 Simpsons Comics #34 \$2.25 50%
Monty Burns has brought his own winter games to Springfield so he can win an award, until he has to face Bart in the snowboarding competition. Oh no!
Hammersley/Morrison.

CALIBER COMICS

- ____ 199712-0095 Whitley Strieber's Beyond Communion #1 \$2.95 50%
Signed by one of the creators at no extra cost.
 ____ 199712-0096 Whitley Strieber's Beyond Communion #1 Incentive \$0.00
For every ten copies of the above book you have ordered you will receive one signed copy by Whitley Strieber himself. A very rare thing indeed.
 ____ 199712-0097 Bottom of the Box #1 \$2.95 50%
A new thriller from the artist of Hitman and Dicks. It's drugs, sex, murder and mayhem as you would expect from McCrea. Written by Si Spencer.
 ____ 199712-0098 Dreamwalker #6 \$2.95 50%
The second story in the Dreamwalker arc is brought to a conclusion as Jenni desperately tries to bring Dr. Seale home to his family. A very good book.
 ____ 199712-0099 Dreamwalker Set \$11.80 50%
The first four issues of the Tapestry series. Great for new readers.
 ____ 199712-0100 Facelift #2 \$2.95 50%
This issue has the Snake Eye's killer! Plus Facelift gets a girlfriend. Golden/Londin/Gallant.
 ____ 199712-0101 [Of 1] Freedom #1 \$4.95 50%
It's 1188 and Michael is a Templar Knight who has discovered corruption that goes right up to the Pope. Now it is his quest to bring down this corruption.
 ____ 199712-0102 [Res.] Johnny Choa #1 \$2.95 50%
July orders are cancelled. You just turned 21 and you can control science as if it was magic, what do you do? Fight big ugly monsters, of course.
 ____ 199712-0103 Lifequest #1 \$2.95 50%
A tale set in the future when mankind is nearly gone and there is little left. A young 12 year old girl, her grandfather and their companions go off in hope to restart the world. Except this time it will be a better place.
 ____ 199712-0104 Marquis: Gallery of Hell \$3.95 50%
There are over 40 different perspectives of the mysterious Marquis in this pin-up book. Includes contributions from Mike Mignola, Mark Nelson, Ted McKeever, and many more.
 ____ 199707-0087 [R] Maze Agency #1 \$2.95 50%
The first issue of this excellent series is still available.
 ____ 199712-0105 Mr. X Value Pack \$8.85 50%
If you buy this pack of Mr. X 2-4 you will get number one for free. Yep, 1-4 for the price of three.
 ____ 199712-0106 Negative Burn #50 \$6.95 50%
The final issue of this anthology. But it goes out with a bang. Contributions include work by James Robinson, Neil Gaiman, Brian Bolland, Mike Wieringo and many others. 96 pages. Squarebound.
 ____ 199712-0107 Nostradamus Chronicles: Rise of the Anti-Christ \$2.95 50%
A Tome Press Title. A nicely drawn comic that translates Nostradamus predictions. After reading this book you might believe that he could see the future.
 ____ 199712-0901 OZ Going Away Special \$19.95 50%
To mark Oz's move to its new home at Arrow Comics, Caliber is offering a special deal. 1 Oz Graphic Novel (Either Mayhem In Munchkinland or A Gathering of Heroes), 5 various Oz comics (all different and all first printings) and 1 Oz Cloisonné Pin (Scarecrow). A retail value of over \$35.00.
 ____ 199712-0108 Pakkin's Land Quest for Kings #5 \$2.95 50%
Sedek and King Aryah have escaped from their cells, but can they escape the prison? A great series by Gary and Rhonda Shipman.
 ____ 199712-0109 Patty Cake Value Pack \$8.85 50%
If you buy this pack of Patty Cake 2-4 you will get number one for free. Yep, 1-4 for the price of three.
 ____ 199712-0110 Raven Chronicles Value Pack \$8.85 50%
If you buy this pack of Raven Chronicles 2-4 you will get number one for free. Yep, 1-4 for the price of three.
 ____ 199712-0111 Rex #1 \$4.95 50%
A self contained story about a policeman who is wrongly accused of a crime and is forced to adopt a new identity to say goodbye to his one true love. By Daniel Zezelj.

199712-0112 **Rib #4** \$2.95 50%

Part four of Beginnings. See more of the world that Rib lives in and what makes him the man he is. Plus a short story by Guy Davis.

 199712-0113 **Saint Germaine #6** \$2.95 50%

Saint Germaine is force to confront the mysterious man known as Kilroy. How far will Saint Germaine go to stop Kilroy? Nice art by Vincent Locke. Plus a Kilroy back up story by Mike Perkins.

 199712-0114 **Searchers Value Pack** \$3.95 50%

Buy one book and get the other book for free.

 199712-0115 [Of 3] **Sherlock Holmes/Hound of the Baskervilles #1** \$2.95 50%

A Tome Press Title. A comic adaptation of the classic story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. By Martin Powell and Patrick Oliffe.

 199712-0116 [R] **Sherlock Holmes: Case of Blind Fear** \$12.95 50%

A graphic novel containing this complete saga as Sherlock Holmes meets The Invisible Man. A great story.

 199712-0117 [R] **Sherlock Holmes: Scarlet in Gas Light** \$12.95 50%

A second graphic novel collecting the complete saga of Sherlock Holmes and Dracula. Great stuff.

 199712-0118 [R] **Sherlock Holmes: Sussex Vampire** \$2.95 50%

Sherlock looks into the case of a woman accused of sucking the blood out of her baby.

 199712-0119 **Technopolis #2** \$2.95 50%

Madison James and Vienna Darlington may have survived the war drones, but they must now face the gangster, Notorious Maxwell.

 199705-0110 [R] **Thundergod Special #1** \$2.95 50%

Still available.

 199712-0120 **Worlds of H.P. Lovecraft: The Lurking Fear** \$2.95 50%

A Tome Press Title. An adaptation of perhaps H.P. Lovecraft's greatest stories.

 199712-0121 **Free Caliber Monthly Promo Pack (Net)** \$1.00 0%

 199712-0122 **Free Caliber Rounds Volume 9 #2 (Net)** \$1.00 0%

FOREST LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

 199712-0123 **Ko-Ko the Klown's Christmas Adventure GN** \$7.95 50%

A full color 48 page graphic novel featuring Betty Boop's frequent co-star, Ko Ko the Klown. A perfect Christmas gift with art by George Broderick. Lots of laughs as well as ghosts, evil snowman, and a magical weather wand.

 199712-0124 **Ko-Ko the Klown's Christmas Adventure HC** \$29.95 50%

A hardcover of the above.

 199712-0125 **Ko-Ko the Klown's Christmas Adventure S/N HC** \$49.95 40%

Signed and numbered by the creative team. Limited to 250 copies.

 199712-0126 **Max Fleischer's Gulliver's Travels GN** \$7.95 50%

A full color graphic novel adapting Max Fleischer's first feature film. Adaptation by Mitchell Perkins and George Broderick. Ships in January.

 199712-0127 **Max Fleischer's Gulliver's Travels HC** \$29.95 50%

A hardcover of the above.

 199712-0128 **Max Fleischer's Gulliver's Travels HC S/N** \$49.95 40%

Signed and numbered by the creative team. Limited to 250 copies.

 199712-0129 [R] **Bozo The Clown GN** \$6.95 50%

A full color graphic novel of the world famous clown. Originally published by Innovation.

 199712-0130 [R] **Chrissie Claus** \$2.95 50%

A full color comic that is for the older child in the family. Originally published by Innovation.

 199712-0131 [R] **Walt Kelly's Santa Claus** \$6.95 50%

A full color graphic novel starring old St. Nick from the creator of Pogo. Originally published by Innovation.

CARTOON BOOKS

 199712-0132 **Bone #26** \$2.95 50%

"The Turning" Thom reaches the pivotal crisis of her young life as Phoney Bone and the villagers prepare to meet their destiny on the Dragon's Stair. Introduces the Stickeaters.

CHERRY COMICS

 199712-0133 [A] **Cherry #5**

\$2.95 45%

 199712-0134 [A] **Cherry #19**

\$2.95 45%

New Printings.

 199712-0135 [A] **Cherry Collection IV**

\$12.95 45%

Collects Cherry #s 10-12 in one spiffy trade.

 199706-0285 [A,R] **Cherry Collection I**

\$15.95 45%

 199706-0286 [A,R] **Cherry Collection II**

\$15.95 45%

 199706-0287 [A,R] **Cherry Collection III**

\$15.65 45%

These earlier issues are still available.

 199712-0136 [A] **Cherry Jubilee #1**

\$2.95 45%

 199712-0137 [A] **Cherry Jubilee #2**

\$2.95 45%

 199712-0138 [A] **Cherry Jubilee #3**

\$2.95 45%

New printings of this best selling adult anthology.

 199712-0139 [A] **Cherry Comics For Grown-Ups T-Shirt L**

\$12.95 45%

 199712-0140 [A] **Cherry Comics For Grown-Ups T-Shirt XL**

\$12.95 45%

CLAYPOOL COMICS

 199712-0141 **Elvira #56**

\$2.50 45%

Draculka has asked Elvira to help him find the perfect gift for her daughter and in exchange he will try to help her solve her tax problem. But what do you get the teenage female vampire that has everything?

 199712-0142 **Soulsearchers #27**

\$2.50 45%

The Gyphals from Pastramia are after Creature Feature; their immortal tribe which is after Hot-2-Trot. Oh, you will just have to read it to fully understand this one.



CLUB 408 GRAPHICS

 199712-0143 **Timespell #1**

\$0.99 45%

An entrepreneur with a deadly secret. A serial killer with a penchant for pregnant women. A homicide detective with an axe to grind. A bartender who may be mankind's only salvation. All of this in the first issue. A thinking man's horror/action comic.

COPPERVAIL COMICS

 199712-0144 [Of 6] **Tales From The Twopenny Inn #1**

\$6.95 50%

This new series combines quality literature with spot illustrations. Each issue will feature four to six illustrated short stories all set in the world of Starchild. This first issue features "The Unforgettable Fire", "Connoisseur", "More than Words" and "A Season of St. Gerlach". Limited to 4500 copies.

CPM

 199712-0145 [M] **Chirality #10**

\$2.95 45%

Still reeling over the choice she was forced to make, Carol is even more shocked to learn that Adam is still alive. Then Vic and Shizuma come to her rescue, but is it too late?



Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher	Description			

199712-0146 [M] Chirality GN Vol. 1 \$9.95 45%
Reprinting the first four issues of this sold out comic by Satoshi Urushihara. Plus pin-ups by Stan Sakai, Andi Watson, and David Boller. Sure to be a best seller.



CHIRALITY #10 Plastic Little #5 MIDNIGHT PANTHER No. 9

199712-0147 [M] Midnight Panther #9 \$2.95 45%
Special origin issue. At last you can find out how the Midnight Panthers came to be. Also, see how Kate Sinclair was the first human to have the ability to transfer from a panther to a human. All by Yu Asagiri.

199712-0148 [Of 5] Plastic Little #5 \$2.95 45%
The final issue. A close up look at core member Mikail DiAgleff. Mikail is confronted with a situation from his past where he lost out. He will not let that happen again. Satoshi Urushihara.

CRUSADE COMICS

199712-0149 Lethargic Lad Adventures #2 \$2.95 50%
The Martian Invasion continues. Can Lethargic Lad stop it with a new costume? The answer may surprise you. Plus Part 2 of the Him/Lethargic Lad crossover. And even more on top of that.

199712-0150 [Of 2] Shi: East Wind Rain #2 \$3.50 50%
The second issue of this two-part fully painted series by Tucci/Cohn/Mayerick. A Shi story set in 1942 Pearl Harbor.

199712-0151 Shi-The Series #5 \$2.95 50%
"A Rock and A Hard Place" part 3. Shi is not only caught in the middle of a gang war; she is also torn between her feelings for Peter and Josef Maximilian. All out action by Chris Golden, J.G. Jones and Charles Yackum.

199712-0152 Shi Limited T-Shirt L \$19.95 40%
199712-0153 Shi Limited T-Shirt XL \$19.95 40%

The famous Shi Death Walk image (from the Door Poster) on the front of a navy blue shirt. She is shown walking away on the back. So Shi gets you coming and going.

199712-0154 Too Fast For Love Limited Poster \$4.95 40%
Tiffany Shepis is featured. A another Crusade motorcycle with an attractive woman on it. 22" x 34". Full color.

199712-0155 Bimota and the Blackbird Ltd. Edition Poster \$4.95 40%
The Bimota Motorcycle from Angel Fire is seen here on the deck of the Angel's headquarters, the USS Intrepid. Full color. 22" x 34".

DANCING ELEPHANT PRESS

199712-0156 Kane: 39th Precinct Pack \$10.00 40%
A chance to get to know the men and women of the New Eden Police Force. Includes "Officer Katie NEPD" and more. 3 different comics and a signed black and white print of Det. Kate Felix.

DARK HORSE

199712-0157 Star Wars X-Wing Rogue Squadron-The Phantom Affair (1-56971-251-4) \$12.95 50%
An all new graphic novel collecting the mini-series by Michael Stackpole, Darko Macan and Edwin Biukovic. An untold tale of Wedge Antilles and his Rogue Squadron.

DRACULINA PUBLISHING

199712-0158 [M] Tender Flesh Photo Comic #1 \$4.95 45%
A photo comic of the Jess Franco movie "Tender Flesh". The story of a young American girl lured to a secluded island by nightclub owner Gorgona and her rich accomplices for fun and money. Only to end up as part of their sadistic games. 52 pages.

DRAWN & QUARTERLY

199712-0159 32 Stories \$9.95 45%
A third printing.

199712-0160 The Little Man-Short Strips 1979-1994 HC \$24.95 45%
199712-0161 The Little Man-Short Strips 1979-1994 S/N HC \$34.95 40%
This beautiful hardcover book reprints all of Chester Brown's short strips. From his one pagers to his short stories. 172 pages and a must for any fan of Chester or great comics. Also comes in a S/N hardcover.

199712-0162 [M] Ed the Happy Clown S/N Tpb \$12.95 45%
Limited to 750 copies. A special signed plate has been inserted into this trade collection originally published by Vortex.

199712-0163 [R] I Never Liked You S/N HC \$27.00 40%
There are a few of these signed and numbered hardcovers left. A great companion piece for the Short Strips collection.

199712-0164 Underwater Pack \$19.95 45%
The first eight issues of Underwater shrink-wrapped together for your reading pleasure. Great stuff.

EDDIE CAMPBELL COMICS

199712-0165 [M] Eddie Campbell's Bacchus #31 \$2.95 45%
The year closes with the final chapter of the big Bacchus serial "Banged Up". Can our horned hero extricate himself from all this misery? Plus Alec makes an appearance.

199712-0166 [M] Eddie Campbell's Collected Bacchus Vol. 3-Doing the Islands With Bacchus. \$17.95 45%
At last the collected "Islands" story arc, 20 short pieces all interlocked by the theme and some continuity as Bacchus mooches around the Greek islands. Full of good cheer and a great Christmas gift.

EVENT COMICS

199712-0167 Ash #2 (Quesada/Palmiotti Cover) \$2.95 50%
199712-0168 Ash #2 (Finch/Batt Cover) \$2.95 50%

"Fire and Crossfire" continues. Is Ash's father somehow tied into the recent rash of fire bombings? It's an inferno of intrigue, loyalty, betrayal, and ruthlessness as Ash's one-man war on corruption continues. By James Robinson, Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti.

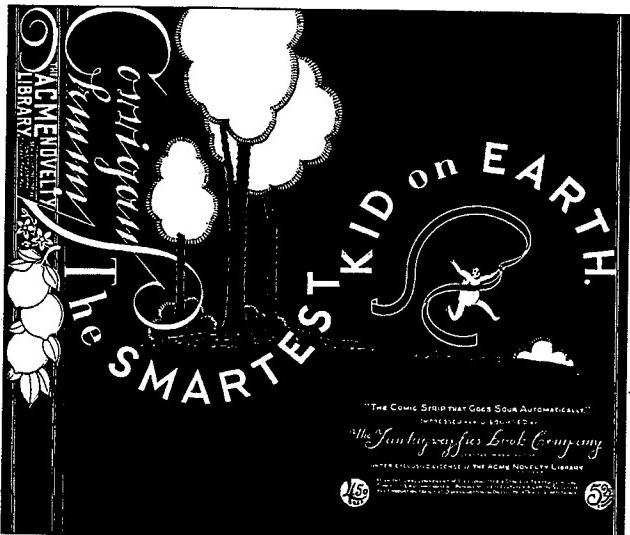
199712-0169 Ash T-Shirt XL \$18.95 40%
The new Ash logo is on the front of this new shirt while the cover to Ash #2 is on the back.

199712-0170 Painkiller Jane #7 Billy Tucci Cover \$2.95 50%
199712-0171 Painkiller Jane #7 Rick Leonardi Cover \$2.95 50%
"Jane in the Jungle Part One". Jane invades the deepest jungles of South America as she chases after the drug lords that are responsible for her deadly condition. By Waid/Augustyn/Leonardi/Palmiotti.

- 199712-0172 Painkiller Jane T-Shirt L \$18.95 50%
 199712-0173 Painkiller Jane T-Shirt XL \$18.95 40%
 On the front is the Painkiller Jane logo and the phrase "Show her where it hurts". On the back is the art of the never-before-seen Quesada alternative cover to Painkiller Jane #1. All on a black t-shirt.

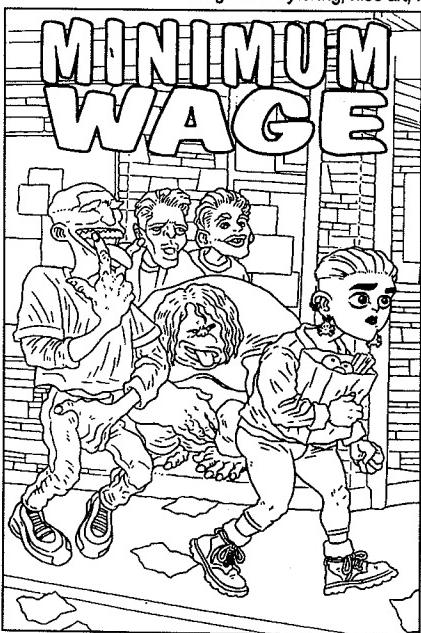
FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

- 199712-0174 [Res., M] Acme Novelty Library #9 \$4.50 45%
 Chris Ware's amazing series returns with part four of the tale of "Jimmy Corrigan Meets His Dad". This issue has no fantasy sequences, no robots, no flashbacks, just a powerful and shocking story.



- 199712-0175 Early Barefootz \$4.95 45%
 Early Howard Cruse work from 1970-1973. A look back at one of the great underground creators and at a dirt-cheap price.

- 199712-0176 McConkey Vol. 1 \$10.95 45%
 A European album that mixes action, humor, horror and funny animals all into one. Written and illustrated and colored by Lewis Trondheim, this book is highly recommended for fans of good storytelling, nice art, funny animals, and great comics.



COMING SOON-FM INTERNATIONAL'S HIT PARADE • OVER 1000 BESTSELLING BACKLIST ITEMS

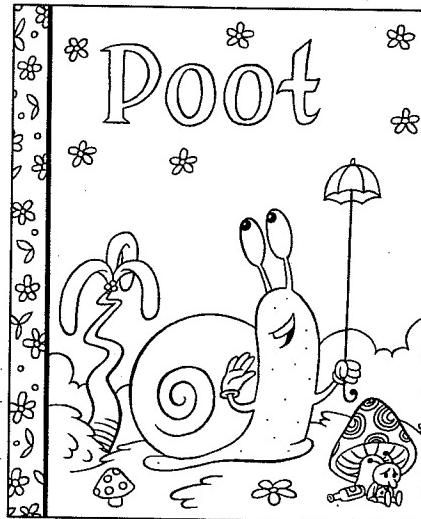
- 199712-0177 [M] Minimum Wage #8 \$2.95 45%
 Rob and Sylvia are confronted by misguided homophobes, thugs, and other ne'er-do-wells. Jack contends with an explosive late night visit from a drunken pal, and Matt learns an important lesson about laundry. All in a story called "Shit Happens"

- 199712-0178 [R,M] Maggie and Hopey Color Fun #1 \$3.50 45%
 199706-0187 [R,M] New Love #1 \$2.95 45%
 199706-0188 [R,M] New Love #2 \$2.95 45%
 199706-1045 [R,M] New Love #3 \$2.95 45%
 199712-0179 [R,M] New Love #4 \$2.95 45%

Early post-Love and Rockets work from the Hernandez Brothers is offered again.

- 199712-0180 Pogo Vol. 8 \$9.95 45%
 The complete reprinting of Walt Kelly's classic moves into the political years. These strips reprint the 1952 election campaign story. Fine material.

- 199712-0181 [M] Poot #1 \$2.95 45%
 From the creator of the award winning "King of Persia" comes a new series. It is a Pogo-esque style story of a sad, masochistic snail that is taken in by a compassionate but cynical squirrel named Tom.



- 199712-0182 [M] Schizo #3 \$3.50 45%
 At long last, the new issue of the book that makes you want to kill yourself. Ivan Brunetti's humor is depressing, biting and very funny. You will laugh out loud at these strips while you feel very bad about doing so. Reading this book is like laughing after seeing your best friend slip and fall.



Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher				
Description				

199712-0183 Usagi Yojimbo Book 4 \$16.95 45%

A new printing of this best selling series. Great material for all readers.

199712-0184 Zippy Quarterly #18 \$3.95 45%

Over 32 pages of Bill Griffith's wacky and yet very entertaining Pinhead. Includes a full color section reprinting the Sunday cartoons.

EROS COMICS

199712-0185 [A] Bitch in Heat #1 \$2.95 45%
This book is so hot it has gone into a second printing.

199712-0186 [A] The Blonde: 12 Pearls #7 \$2.95 45%
Another fetish filled issue of bondage and beautiful women as only F. Saudelli can present it.

199712-0187 [A] Bondage Girls at War #1 \$2.95 45%

199712-0188 [A] Bondage Girls at War #2 \$2.95 45%

199712-0189 [A] Bondage Girls at War #3 \$2.95 45%

199712-0190 [A] Bondage Girls at War #4 \$2.95 45%

199712-0191 [A] Bondage Girls at War #5 \$2.95 45%

199712-0192 [A] Bondage Girls at War #6 \$2.95 45%

Ron Wilber's futuristic tale of Women battling robots, often without clothes.

199712-0193 [A] Crystal Balls #2 \$2.95 45%

A second printing.

199712-0194 [Res., A] Come Again #3 \$2.95 45%

Resolicited. Old orders are cancelled. This issue has so much sex in it that it taken longer to draw than anticipated. Now it is ready to go.

199712-0195 [A] Domino Lady Pack \$5.95 45%

A 3 pack of Ron Wilber's huge busted 1940's crime-fighter, Domino Lady.

199712-0196 [A] Eric Stanton's: Tops and Bottoms #2 \$2.95 45%

Classic bondage stories from the master of dominant females, Eric Stanton.

199712-0197 [A] Hardcore Dard \$4.95 45%

A collection of art from various Men's magazines from the creator of Tart. Lots of hard core sex cartoons. Plus a color section.

199712-0198 [A] Mara Vol. 2: Celtic Shameness GN \$19.95 45%

The second collection of Dennis Cramer's beautiful drawn Mara of the Celts. Lots of extras in this album including pin-ups, sketches, etc.

199712-0199 [A] Miss Adventure GN Nude Cover \$14.95 45%

199712-0200 [A] Miss Adventure GN PG Cover \$14.95 45%

From the pages of Penthouse Comics comes the collected adventures of Miss Adventure. Story and art by George Caragonne, Keith Giffin, Cary Polkowitz and Gary Leach. 72 pages. Full color.



199712-0201 [A] 2 Hot Girls on a Hot Summer Night \$12.95 45%
A 4th printing of this graphic novel.

199712-0202 [Res., A] Sex Machine #3 \$2.95 45%
Resolicited. The long delayed third issue of Derrick Richardson's Sex Machine. Lots of hard core sex.

199712-0203 [A] Countdown Sex Bombs #5 \$2.95 45%
Second printing.

199712-0204 [A] The God of Sex2 #1 \$3.50 45%
A new series by Kazuki Taniuchi. He loves drawing big-busted babes and this series is filled with them, as well as lots of hot sex.



199712-0205 [A] Lust #9 \$3.50 45%
The final issue of this decadent series by Tenjiku Ronin. He, of course, goes out with a bang. A gangbang that is.

199712-0206 [A] New Bondage Fairies #13 \$2.95 45%
Pil comes across a piece of human technology, a mirror. She gets so horny looking at the creature on the other side of the mirror she gives the mirror image a sex show you will not soon forget.

199712-0207 [A] Secret Plot #3 \$2.95 45%
A super-hot gym teacher has to help a student with low self esteem because his penis is too large. And does she gets over it! Wow.



____ 199712-0208 [A] Sexhibition #6	\$2.95	45%
____ 199712-0209 [A] Spunky Knight #4	\$2.95	45%
____ 199712-0210 [A] Super Taboo #9	\$2.95	45%

All three of this books are going into second printings.

FAUX PUMA PRESS

____ 199712-0211 Dead Letter Office #1	\$2.95	50%
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When Jon McKinley decides to build an ice palace for the wrong kind of woman, love goes from the usual comedy of errors to a sit-com of morbidity. But when Jon's notions of romance catch on, then he catches hell.

FIREMAN PRESS

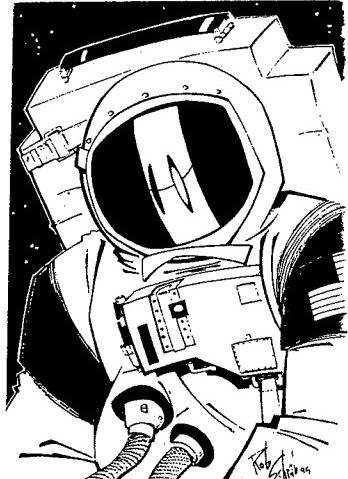
____ 199712-0212 Scud: The Disposable Assassin #19	\$2.95	50%
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Scud and Sussudio make another stop in part four of the Horse storyline. This time they are plugged into the middle of a 1980's teenager slasher film. See people die from a mad slasher, see a slumber party with lots of women in their underwear, see Scud do a beer bong. Much more. Harmon/Schrab.



____ 199712-0213 Scud Tpb Vol. 3-Solid Gold Bomb	\$17.95	50%
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Includes all of Scud #'s 10-15. Everything from the first werewolf on the moon to Scud getting laid. Introduces Sussudio, Oswald and Superior Alien Military Patriot. Funny book. 200 pages.



____ 199712-0214 Scud Tpb Vol. 2-Programmed for Damage	\$14.95	50%
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New printing of this sold out second volume. Reprints Scuds #5-9.

____ 199712-0215 La Cosa Nostroid T-Shirt XL	\$16.00	40%
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____ 199712-0216 Scud Surreality T-Shirt XL	\$19.00	40%
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Scud and his logo in full color on the front of a white t-shirt, with the motto "Surreality Just Got Funky" on the back.

____ 199712-0217 Scud Heartbreaker T-Shirt XL	\$16.00	40%
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A yellow t-shirt with a black heart on the front and a black and white attention label on the back.

FONTANELLE PRESS

____ 199712-0218 The Wiggly Reader #1	\$2.95	45%
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A strange book that is very funny by Xeric award winner, J. Kerschbaum. A group of city guys get trapped in the great outdoors with very funny results.

FULL BLEED STUDIOS

____ 199712-0219 Pitt #16	\$2.50	50%
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Tim finally meets Lupa and she is naked. But she wants to rip Tim's head off. And Pitt, barely recovered from the five long years in Shimmerspace, is ruthlessly ambushed by the US Army's experimental Weapons Force. Pitt decided to make sure this never happens again. He is going to have to kill the commander in chief, Bill Clinton. Wild. Pace/Keown

G.T. LABS

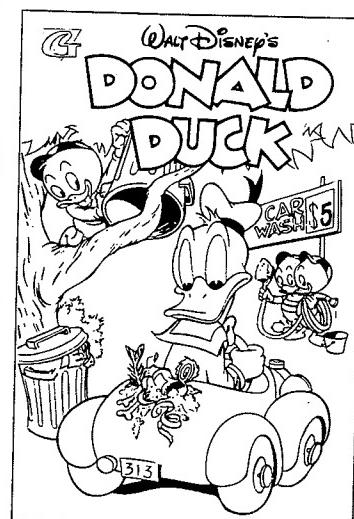
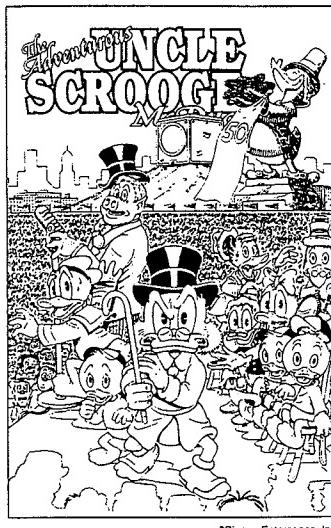
____ 199712-0220 Two-Fisted Science Tpb	\$10.00	45%
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A trade paperback of Jim Ottaviani's "Tales of Weird Science". All of these stories are true, some very weird and some very funny. Stories illustrated by Mark Badger, Donna Barr, Sean Bieri, Paul Chadwick, Guy Davis, Colleen Doran and more. 128 pages.

GLADSTONE COMICS

____ 199712-0221 Adventures of Uncle Scrooge #2	\$1.95	45%
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All of Duckburg is trying to figure out what to give Scrooge McDuck for his 50th Anniversary. After all, what do you give the duck that needs nothing? Don Rosa.



____ 199712-0222 Donald Duck #307	\$1.95	45%
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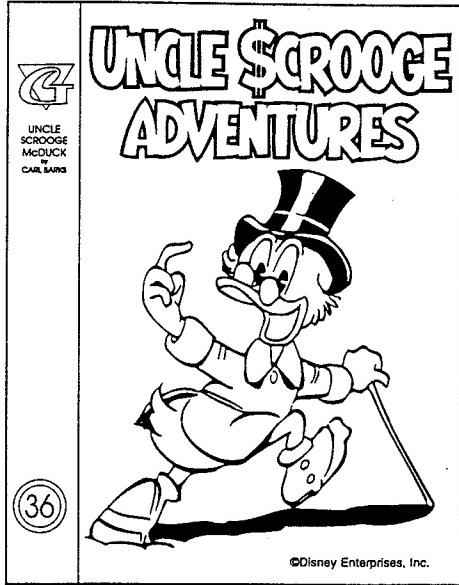
Donald tries to get the better of the Junior Woodchucks once again, and of course fails. Story by Dan Jippes and Fred Milton. Plus a William VanHorn story.

____ 199712-0223 Uncle Scrooge Adventures In Color #35	\$9.95	45%
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Four complete stories from the pages of Uncle Scrooge #35 and #36. Includes "The Golden Nugget Boat", "Gift Lion", "The Midas Touch" and "Money Bag Goat". All by Carl Barks.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher	Description			

199712-0224 Uncle Scrooge Adventures In Color #36 \$8.95 45%
From Uncle Scrooge #37, "Cave of Ali Baba" and Deep Down Doings." Two classic tales from Carl Barks.



199712-0225 Uncle Scrooge and Donald Duck #2 \$1.95 45%
A trio of Christmas stories from Europe. "Christmas in Duckburg", "Donald and the Bear", and "Christmas Turkeys".

199712-0226 Walt Disney's Comics And Stories #621 \$6.95 45%
This issue opens with a new Donald story by William Van Horn. A new Mickey 3-parter begins, "The Fossil Hunters". A vintage Silly Symphonies story and an unfinished Gyro Gearloose story begun by Carl Barks and finished by Don Rosa.



GOBLIN STUDIOS

199712-0227 Joe Psycho & Moo Frog Fanatics Edition #1 \$2.50 50%
The original book is re-mastered just for you. Includes some new strips never before seen as well as lots of new jokes. A new cover and better paper.

HARRIS COMICS

199712-0228 [Of 2] Pantha #1 \$3.50 40%
Pantha is caught in a game of cat and mouse with a gang of crazed Werewolves! Story by Mark Miller and John Smith with art by Mark Texeira.

199712-0229 Vampirella #2 \$2.95 50%
Part two of "The Acceding Evil". Mark Miller and Grant Morrison return as Vampirella takes on a beautiful teenage ally in her war against Vampirism.

199712-0230 Vampirella/Shi #1 Chromium Edition \$10.00 40%
A special chromium edition of this best seller. Limited to 7500 copies.

199712-0231 Vampirella Crossover Gallery Collector's Set \$19.95 40%
All four covers to this special book. Includes covers by Quesada, Art Adams, Rick Mays, and Mark Beachum.

199712-0232 Vampirella Death & Destruction #1 Ltd. Ed. \$9.95 40%
The limited alternative edition is available for the first time. Cover by Mark Beachum. Limited to 1500.

HEAVY METAL

199712-0233 [M] Ranx 3 \$9.95 50%
The conclusion to the wild and wooly Ranx saga by the one and only Liberatore.

HOT MEXICAN LOVE COMICS

199712-0234 Hot Mexican Love Comics #2 \$4.00 45%
A new collection of this anthology by the best of L.A.s animators. You wouldn't know their names but you will recognize their style. Great stuff.

HUNGRY TIGER PRESS

199712-0235 [M] An Accidental Death \$3.50 45%
The wonderful mini-series first published by Dark Horse, then collected by Fantagraphics and now self-published. If you have never read this, then you are missing a great piece of work. Written by Ed Brubaker and drawn by Eric Shanower.

HUNTER PRODUCTIONS

199712-0236 Lyceum #3 \$2.95 45%
An anthology featuring a combination of new talent and old talent trying new things. There are very mixed results.

199712-0237 One Millennium Collector's Pack \$10.00 45%
Get all five issues of this ongoing science fiction novel. All first printings. Each comes with a signed and numbered letter of authenticity.

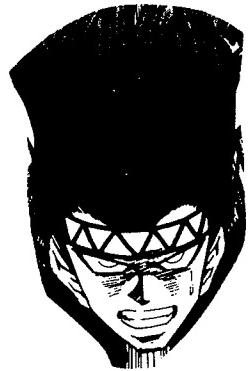
ILLITERATURE PRESS

199712-0238 The Collected Chronic Apathy \$10.00 50%
This collection brings together all six issues of the critically acclaimed series, "Chronic Apathy." These issues make up the first half of the storyline "All in My Mind". Also included is an exclusive black and white illustrated front piece for this collection. Good material for the alternative press fan.

IRONCAT COMICS

199712-0239 [M] Cutie Honey #1 \$2.95 50%
The return of the beautiful teenage crime fighting android by the one and only Go Nagai. It's now the 90's and Honey is called upon to save Japan from her resurrected immortal enemy "Sister Jill" and her army of the "Panther Claw".

- ____ 199712-0240 [Of 5] Doctor #2 \$2.95 50%
 The adventures of the "Doctor" and his bio-blob Liquido Medio in their quest to use the lost magical arts of surgery to help when stricken souls need their talent. Plus the return of Master Igual. Ippongi Bang.

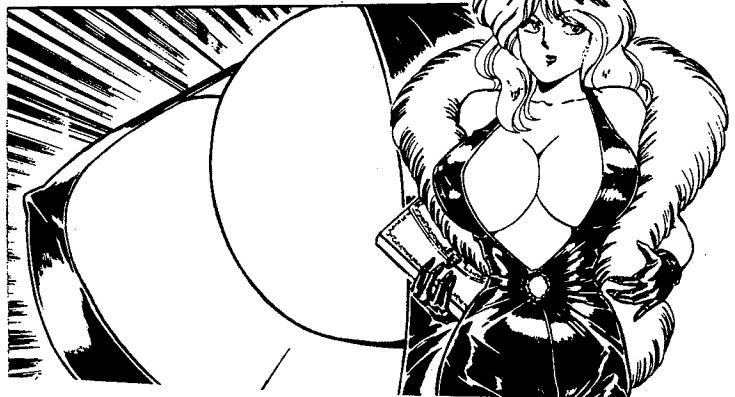


- ____ 199712-0241 Flag Fighter #4 \$2.95 50%
 Shori claims that all of Reppa's victories are really his and he should be the lead Flag Fighter. Can Reppa save this sorry upstart while he still has a chance to live and regret this trespass against or will he die foolishly?



- ____ 199712-0242 New Vampire Miyu #4 \$2.95 50%
 Miyu is trapped in a dream and she is at the mercy of Night Gia. While it may be a dream, it can kill her as her body is still vulnerable.

- ____ 199712-0243 [A] Ogenki Clinic #4



- ____ 199712-0244 Knight of the Dinner Table #9 \$2.95 50%
 Three new sex filled cases this month. Includes Case #9 "California Girl", Case #10 "High Heels Scare Me", and Case #11 "The Land Lady is Scary".

KENZER AND COMPANY

- ____ 199712-0245 Knight of the Dinner Table #8 \$2.95 50%
 ____ 199712-0246 Knight of the Dinner Table #7 \$2.95 50%
 ____ 199712-0247 Knight of the Dinner Table #6 \$2.95 50%

This book was recommended to us by a number of retailers as being one of the funniest comics around. Particularly if you have ever or currently play games. They were right, this comic is a riot. It is about a group of gamers who play out an adventure in a different setting with each issue, with hilarious results. Very funny material. Recommended.

KITCHEN SINK PRESS

- ____ 199712-0248 [Res.] Flock of Dreamers: Anthology of Dream-Inspired Comics \$12.95 50%
 Resolicited. 20 tales from some of the worlds best storytellers about or inspired by dreams. Contributions by R. Crumb, Jim Woodring, Rick Veitch, and many more. 96 pages.

- ____ 199712-0249 [M] Violent Cases-10th Anniversary Edition \$12.95 50%
 Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean's first major work together. This special 10th anniversary edition has a new cover by Dave McKean.

- ____ 199712-0250 A Short History of America by Robert Crumb \$8.00 50%
 A full color print by Robert Crumb about the growth and decline of America. 22" x 24".

- ____ 199712-0251 [Of 4, R] Crow: Waking Nightmares #1 \$2.95 50%
 Revenge and Hong Kong Style action in New York City's Chinatown. Christopher Golden/Phil Hester.

- ____ 199712-0252 [R] Frank Frazetta Print #1-Tiger Lady \$20.00 40%
 A stunning image of a woman and a leopard on heavy stock. 18" x 22".

- ____ 199712-0253 [R] Gang of Four Serigraph \$250.00 40%
 A full color signed and numbered serigraph by Charles Burns. 24" x 32". Only 50 were available in the US.

- ____ 199712-0254 [R, A] Omaha #6 \$2.50 50%
 ____ 199708-4021 [R, A] Omaha #7 \$2.50 50%
 ____ 199708-4022 [R, A] Omaha #8 \$2.00 50%

A limited number of these original Kitchen Sink Omaha issues are still available. Some great story telling.

- ____ 199712-0255 [R, M] R. Crumb's Art and Beauty Magazine \$4.95 50%
 An homage to the girly magazine's of the 30's as R. Crumb showcases some of his most beautiful women.

KIWI STUDIOS

- ____ 199712-0256 Smith Brown Jones: Alien Accountant GN Vol. 1: Calm, Cool and Collected \$12.95 50%

This very cool series is collected into one easy to read book. Over 130 pages of zanies that will make you laugh out loud. This book has everything from Lizard-thing assassins to Demented Robots to Talk shows. Plus a burping cat. Good stuff.



Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher				
Description				

KNIGHT PRESS

____ 199712-0257 **Blood and Roses Collectors Pack** \$9.95 50%

All 8 issues of Blood and Roses in a die-cut box and shrink wrapped. Makes a great gift.

____ 199712-0258 **Blood & Roses Collectors Pack Gold Edition** \$13.95 50%

Same as above except it comes with a special Gold Logo edition of Blood and Roses: Future Tense #1 autographed by Bob Hickey.

____ 199712-0259 **Blood & Roses Collectors Pack Gold Ed. Plus** \$17.95 50%

Same as above except it comes with an exclusive never-before-released limited white edition Sky Zero Ashcan that includes a Blood and Roses story that is exclusive to this ashcan.

____ 199712-0260 **Parts Unknown Handbook: Roswell Agenda** \$2.95 50%

A special preview of the next Parts Unknown saga as well as everything you would ever want to know about the Parts Unknown world, from babes to dinosaurs.

LAST GASP

____ 199712-0261 [A] **A Very Special Prison** \$12.95 45%

Lets see, a full color graphic novel from Van Goth. Adults only. Published by Last Gasp. Hummm. It must be another bondage book full of hard core sex and bondage.

____ 199712-0262 **True Blood Tpb** \$19.95 45%

____ 199712-0263 **True Blood Hardcover** \$40.00 45%

____ 199712-0264 **True Blood Deluxe Hardcover S/N** \$50.00 40%

A collection of photos and essays documenting the growing subculture known as Modern Primitives. This includes tattooing, scarification, branding, piercing and much more. A great companion book for the Re-Search volume on Modern Primitives. Also available in hardcover and signed and numbered hardcover.

____ 199712-0265 [R] **Barefoot Gen Vol. 1: Cartoon History/Hiroshima** \$12.95 45%

____ 199712-0266 [R] **Barefoot Gen Vol. 2: The Day After** \$12.95 45%

____ 199712-0267 [R] **Barefoot Gen Vol. 3: Life After The Bomb** \$12.95 45%

____ 199712-0268 [R] **Barefoot Gen Vol. 4: Out of the Ashes** \$12.95 45%

The complete sage by Keiji Nakazawa is now available. Very beautiful books and a very powerful storyline about life in Japan during and after the war. A true story about life in Hiroshima.

LIAR COMICS

____ 199712-0269 **More than Mortal #3** \$2.95 50%

Only the help of Moran the Witchfinder can save Conner and Durdre from the Host and his hordes. But can he save them from the twisted evil that lives in Durdre herself? A full color book that is breathtaking. The production and quality of this book rival anything currently being done by Image. Give it a try.



____ 199712-0270 [R] **More than Mortal #1** \$2.95 50%

____ 199712-0271 [R] **More than Mortal #2** \$2.95 50%

These first two issues are still available.

LIGHTNING COMICS

____ 199712-0272 **Nira X Series II Action Figure** \$9.95 40%

Series Two comes with 2 plasma cannons and a highly detailed pair of cyber wings. Over 6 inches tall. Poseable arms and legs.

____ 199712-0273 **Nira X Series II Gold Collector's Ed. Action Figure** \$14.95 40%
A special limited edition that is limited to 5000 figures.

____ 199712-0274 **Serpentina #1** \$2.95 45%

____ 199712-0275 **Serpentina #1 Cover B** \$2.95 45%
Serpentina was killed in a bloody war in a long forgotten time. She now has the opportunity to return to our world with her plan for revenge. If she is able to make it back, the blood will flow. Also available in a variant cover.

____ 199712-0276 **Sinthia #2** \$2.95 45%

____ 199712-0277 **Sinthia #2 Cover B** \$2.95 45%
The Sisters of Darkness are hot on Sinthia's trail and Michael is anything but what he appears to be. Plus, the imposter Sinthia plans on making sure that the real Sinthia can never return to hell. A variant cover is available.

____ 199712-0278 **Sinthia Gold Collector's Edition Action Figure** \$14.95 40%
A special edition of this figure that is limited to 5000.

____ 199712-0279 [R] **Sinthia Action Figure** \$10.95 40%

Over six inches tall this original toy is available for one last time.

LONE STAR COMICS

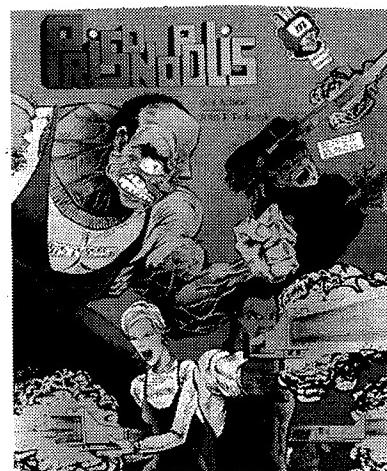
____ 199712-0280 **Heroic Tales #4** \$2.50 50%

Amazon is getting used to her new job as a construction worker until the border patrol shows up. Plus six new Toho monsters face off against six new Universal monsters, all by Mark Finn.

MEDIAWARP COMICS

____ 199712-0281 [Of 4] **Prisonopolis #4** \$2.75 50%

Find out if Billy and Roxanne survive their escape from prison. Also, learn more about the motives of the Prisontech CEO Warren Gilt.

**METAPHROG**

____ 199712-0903 **Strange Weather Lately #2** \$3.50 40%

We continue to explore the strange world of Martin Nitram's. It starts of with him getting the last can of beans from the vending machine and goes down hill from there. A nice book imported from Scotland.

MODERN

____ 199712-0282 [M] **Lovely Prudence Christmas Misery Special #1** \$2.95 45%

Demented parodies of the X-Mas classic "Twas the Night before Christmas" and "A Christmas Carol". Plus the evil red-suited Santa Cult and their horible elves.

____ 199712-0283 **Lovely Prudence Ring** \$9.95 40%
 A wicked sterling silver ring featuring the face of Lovely Prudence, the skull-faced, teenage she-brat, bloodshot eyes and all. Adjustable.

____ 199712-0284 **Billy Dogma #3** \$2.95 45%
 Buck Wild coerces Billy Dogma to have his self-worth measured by the Human Bar Code. Also, in a collaborative jam with Jessica Able, Billy meets Courtney Clare, in a battle to save Jane Legit from the evil seduction of Dr. Eros.

MURIM STUDIOS

____ 199712-0285 **Tzu: Spirits of Death #2** \$2.95 50%
 From Jae Jack Lee, the creator of Tzu, comes the series that started it all. When Tzu investigates the hidden treasures of an ancient burial ground, he finds himself embroiled in adventures beyond his wildest dreams. Ghosts, demons, spirits, and a beautiful woman!

MOORDAM COMICS

____ 199712-0286 **Mr. Beat's House of Burning Jazz Love** \$2.95 50%
 More zanies with America's favorite beatnik. This issue is filled with surprise guest stars as they drop by Mr. Beat's coffeehouse. You will have to buy this issue to find out who does stop by. Special guest-star, Bongo's Roswell.



____ 199712-0287 **Mr. Beat's House of Burning Jazz Love Deluxe Ed.** \$5.00 50%
 Signed and comes with a special print.

NBM

____ 199712-0289 **A Jew In Communist Prague 2: Adolescence** \$11.95 45%
 The second volume in this excellent series about life behind the Iron Curtain. Jonas Finkel's father has disappeared and he and his mother don't understand why. The more they question, the more trouble they get into. A fantastic book by one of the greatest (and underrated) comic artists of all time, Vittorio Giardino.

____ 199712-0290 [R] **A Jew In Communist Prague Vol. 1** \$11.95 45%
 So you can read both volumes.

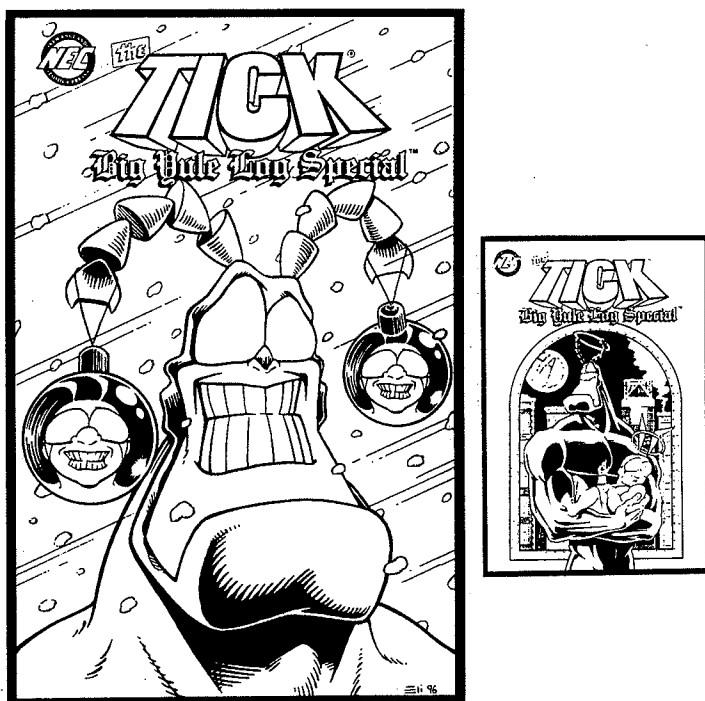
____ 199712-0291 [R] **Orient Gateway** \$12.95 45%
 Also by Vittorio Giardino, and long out-of-print. A tale of spies and intrigue upon a boat in 1938 Europe. Beautiful art.

____ 199712-0292 **Corvo Maltese, The Ballad of the Salt Sea #4** \$2.95 45%
 While waiting to meet with the all powerful among pirates, "Monk", someone shoots at Corvo while he is in a car, killing the driver and almost ending his and Pandor's life. Who did it? And what does "Monk" have in mind that has to do with the upcoming war?

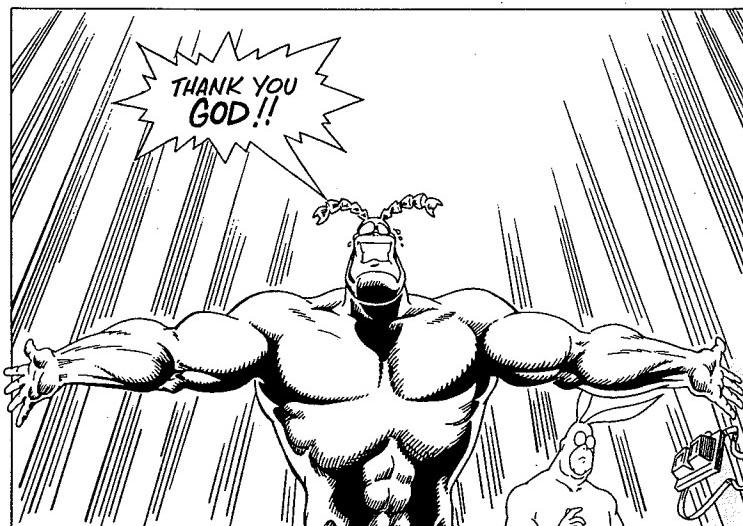
____ 199712-0293 **The Wind in the Willows 1: The Wild Wood** \$15.95 45%
 A full color hardcover adaptation of this classic novel by Michael Plessix. All of the characters you have come to know and love over the years are here, such as the Toad, the Rat, the Mole, and the rest of the crew. Great for all ages.

NEW ENGLAND COMICS

____ 199712-0294 **Tick's Big Yule Log Special** \$3.50 50%
 All new 40 page special full of Tick antics. Two stories fill this issue. The first is "Even Santa Has Critics", The Tick and Arthur end up playing a shopping mall Santa and his assistant. Laughs ensue. Then "Arthur teaches the Tick about Chanukah". It is a Jewish history lesson as only the Tick can tell it. There will be two different covers that will be distributed in equal amounts of 50/50.



____ 199712-0295 **Tick "Thank You God" Jumbo Poster** \$6.99 40%



Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher				
Description				

199712-0296 Tick "Stinking Foot" Jumbo Poster \$6.99 40%

These are two very large (almost 2x 3') full color posters on glossy stock.

199712-0297 The Tick Limited Edition Button Set \$15.95 40%

Five full color 1-1/4" buttons in a decorated plastic presentation case with an identifying color insert card. Limited to 5000 sets. Includes The Tick, Speak, the Capybara, Man-Eating Cow, Little Wooden Boy, The Evil Midnight Bomber what Bombs at Midnight. Each pin-back button is 1/4" wide and printed in full color.

199712-0298 The Tick Mousepad \$14.99 40%

A beautiful four color mouse pad with the saying, "I dare because I care!"

199712-0299 The Tick #9 \$2.95 50%

199712-0300 The Tick #10 \$2.95 50%

199712-0301 The Tick #11 \$2.95 50%

199712-0302 The Tick #12 \$2.95 50%

These book are so popular that they are all back with 4th printings.

ODD JOBS LIMITED

199712-0900 Forty Winks #2 \$2.95 50%

Can even the Smith Street Gang protect little ten year old Pandora Spocks from the monster that haunts her dreams? The monster doesn't think so. A very nice new book by Vincent Sneed and John Peters.

OLIO PRESS

199712-0303 Castle Waiting #4 \$2.95 50%

This is the happy event you've been waiting nine months for; the birth of Lady Jain's baby! But the castle folk can't help wonder who-or what-was the father... This book gets better with every issue. Be sure to order enough.

199709-0250 [R] Castle Waiting #1 \$2.95 50%

199709-0251 [R] Castle Waiting #2 \$2.95 50%

199709-0249 [R] Castle Waiting #3 \$2.95 50%

Here is a chance to stock up on these early issues. This is really an excellent series.

ONI PRESS

199712-0304 [M] Bad Boy #1 \$4.95 50%

In a world of perimeter fences, sterile hospitable wards, constraining leg braces, and cyborg police patrols, things only get worse. Poor Jason, his companion Rachel, and Jason's sentient cat Adolph attempt their chance at some semblance of a "normal" life. Written by Frank Miller and drawn by Simon Bisley. An all-new tales colored by Agnus McKee. This 40 page, stapled, magazine size publication features a heavy card stock cover sporting a stunning wraparound cover by Bisley.



PENTHOUSE COMICS

199712-0305 [A] Penthouse Comix #29 \$4.95 50%

A slew of new material in this issue. "Red", a new series painted by Mike Texeira. "Nazi Kong" by Chris Henderson and Michael Lopez, "Hot Wax" by Eliot Brown and Yvel Guichet, "Raging Rod" by Michael Avon Oeming and Dave Johnson, and "Sweet Chasity" by Bob Guccione and Ron Emberton.

199707-0285 [A,R] Penthouse Comix #26 \$4.95 50%

The first comic sized issue with the "Return of Batgirl" is still available in very limited numbers.

PAINTED PONY PRESS

199712-0306 Totally Horses #4 \$1.95 45%

The Christmas issue. Black Fury, Chomper, Totally Trotsie and Fred Horse celebrate the holidays in this eclectic collection of horse stories.

QUESTER ENTERTAINMENT

199712-0307 The Eden Descendents #1 \$3.95 45%

In the devastated world of the globally warmed future, nearly all remaining life exists in a small network of tranquil underground biological preserves. But two unlikely partners are forced to flee to the harsh surface when they discover the deadly secret behind mankind's destruction. Very nice art!



RADIO COMIX

199712-0308 [A] Filthy Animals #3 \$2.95 50%

Marlene in bondage. Veronica in emotional turmoil. Connor in therapy. And even more. This book is almost as good as Melrose Place.

199712-0309 Furlough #60 \$2.95 50%

This issues serializes Tobias Wah, Tiger Orange and Bronze Age.

199712-0310 [A] Genus #27 \$2.95 50%

More anthropomorphic animals having sex. This issue includes "Desert Storms", "The Night B4 X-Mas" and part one of "Crossed Wires".

REBEL STUDIOS

199712-0311 Dark Utopia 2: The Art of Tim Vigil \$4.00 50%

A collection of Tim Vigil's favorite work from his massive work over the years. Includes four color plates. Some images may be very graphic.

RED EYE PRESS

199712-0312 Valentine #2 \$2.95 50%
Dana Valentine not only has a bounty on her head, she also holds the key piece of evidence that may save the life of the president of the United States. Nice stuff.



199712-0313 [R] Valentine #1 \$2.95 50%
This first issue is still available.

RED INK PRESS

199712-0314 Non #1 \$2.50 50%
A new anthology featuring some very good work by the artists who never seem happy. A very funny book in the vein of Schizo. Half sized 44 pages.



RELENTLESS COMICS

199712-0315 Nicki Shadow #2 \$2.50 50%
Last issues raid on hexcorp was a total rave...what a bunch losers. Except these losers have a lots of guns and real short tempers. Nicki and the gang face 'Retaliation in Three Acts'. Burnham/Naifeh

REVISONARY PRESS

199712-0316 [A] Taxi Girls Official Film Adaptation \$3.50 45%
199712-0317 [A] Taxi Girls Official Film Adaptation-Nude C. \$3.50 45%
A comic adaptation of this classic XXX film from 1980. Includes behind the scene stories and photos.

199712-0318 [A] Triple-X Cinema: A Cartoon History Tpb \$14.95 45%
The complete history of the X-rated cinema in one 118 page trade.

199712-0319 [A] Triple-X Cinema: A Cartoon History Tpb \$21.95 45%
Signed
Signed by one of the featured stars in the trade. Limited to 200 copies.

199712-0320 [A] Jenna Jameson: Superstar \$4.95 45%
A collection of all of the Canal Comics that have featured Jenna.

199712-0321 [A] Jenna Jameson: Superstar Deluxe Autographed Copy \$17.95 45%
Includes the ultra rare mini-comic that came with the Wicked Weapons video as well as the rare photo cover. Limited to 200 copies.

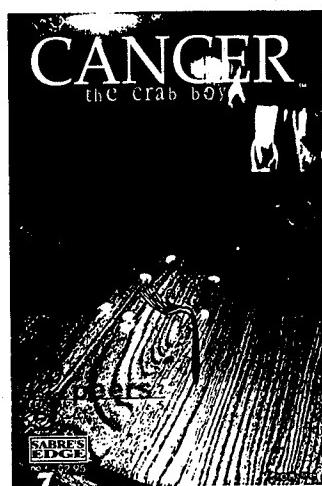
199712-0322 [A] Melissa Monet: Sin Eater #1 \$2.95 45%
199712-0323 [A] Melissa Monet: Sin Eater #1 Signed \$9.95 45%
An adaptation of the upcoming Sin-Eater movie. Plus the normal bio material.

199712-0324 [A] Nici Sterling #1 \$2.95 45%
A second printing.

199712-0325 [A] Nici Sterling #1 Signed Edition \$9.95 45%
Limited to 1000 copies.

SABRE'S EDGE

199712-0326 Cancer: The Crab Boy #7 \$2.95 50%
The peers storyline continues as someone gets pierced. Someone gets a midget thrown at them, and someone almost gets shot as Cancer and the gang learn to eat without utensils.



SCREAMING DODO STUDIOS

199712-0327 Bombastic #5 \$2.50 50%
With the Ruckus feature on sabbatical, the three main features expand to longer stories. Included in this issue are "Wingnut and Fidget: Intergalactic Bounty Hunters", Bratterskain", and Cascade Featuring Elo the Eloquent Troll".

SHADOW HOUSE PRESS

199712-0328 Shadow House #3 \$2.95 50%
It's time for Gideon King to lick his wounds and recover from his face-off with the demon Brokatha in "Nightmark". In "The Revenant", a ghost from the past comes to relieve the violence that created the monster.

SHEET HAPPIES PRESS

199712-0329 Rayne Book V \$2.95 45%
Rayne finally escapes from the horror of Castle Reach, in her search for the fallen Dohr. She receives a strange message from Regis and help from an unexpected ally: Kathryne. Gary McCluskey. This is a very well done book. It is worth a try if you have never read it before.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher	Description			

SILVERLINE

- ____ 199712-0330 [Of 3] **Switchblade #1** \$2.95 50%
At last, a new series from Roland Mann, the creator of Cat and Mouse. This is an action adventure story with great art by Leonard (Supergirl) Kirk. All out action with a great story. This is a must for any comic, superhero or detective fan. Recommended.

**SIRIUS ENTERTAINMENT**

- ____ 199712-0331 [Of 6] **7th System #1** \$2.95 50%
Roel weaves a story of interstellar love and war across the mythical 7th System. Beautiful art of Roel harkens back to the early days of Conan and Heavy Metal.
- ____ 199712-0332 **Akiko #21** \$2.50 50%
"Spuckler on the Road". Travelling from planet to planet in a beat up space ship, Spuckler plays Robin Hood by stealing from the Warlords on the planet Brunk. Of course, not all goes as planned and Spuckler ends up in jail in solitary confinement. Except he is not alone.
- ____ 199712-0333 **Brom Darkwerks** \$24.95 50%
A coffee table book by master fantasy artist Brom. This book has over 150 full color plates that break new ground in the cross-breeding of horror, science-fiction, fantasy, fetish, and fashion. 128 pages in full color.
- ____ 199712-0334 [Of 6] **Chi-Chian #2** \$2.95 50%
In the wake of Chi-Chian's supposed murder, everybody starts to show their true colors. Not everybody is who you thought they were. Story and art by Voltaire.
- ____ 199712-0335 **Magic Single** \$7.99 40%
The first single from Gary Numan's new album. Has three songs including the title track, "You Walk In my Soul", and the bonus track "Play Like God", that is not available on the album. Cover art by Joe Linsner. For the first time anywhere, Chromium CD insert card by Linsner.
- ____ 199712-0336 **Poison Elves #30** \$2.50 50%
Vido, the not-so-bright police detective finally catches the rogue assassin, Lusipher. And much to Lusipher's chagrin, he is now trapped, or is he? Drew Hayes.

- ____ 199712-0337 **Reality Check! Tpb** \$14.95 50%
The first six issues of this best selling series is collected into one beautiful trade paperback complete with 12 new pages. Full color.

- ____ 199712-0338 [R] **Roel-One Shot** \$2.95 50%
To go with Roel's new book, 7th System, this earlier work is being offered again.
- ____ 199707-0318 [R] **Tombstone Girls Portfolio** \$30.00 40%
This portfolio by Brom is offered again.
- ____ 199712-0339 **Poe #3** \$2.50 50%
Part four of "The Fall of the House Of Usher" storyline. Poe discovers a strange library in the house, which leads to all sorts of strange and frightening discoveries. A good book by Jason Azalea.

- ____ 199712-0340 **Sheba Vol. 2 #1** \$2.50 50%
Sheba is a mummified Egyptian cat that awakens in 7th century A.D. Add in Anubis, the dog-headed god of the dead, and you have a wild story. See the Egyptian gods try and get revenge on the new emerging Gods of the Dark Ages. All by Walter S. Crane IV.

SLAP HAPPY PRESS

- ____ 199712-0341 **Rampage #1** \$9.95 45%
 ____ 199712-0342 **Rampage #1 Deluxe** \$15.00 45%
13 of today's top independent contributors join together in this massive 100 page epic. Includes stories and information from Brian Clopper, Jenni Gregory, Doug Baron, Keelan Parham, and more. Also available in a deluxe version that has a tip-in plate signed by two of the creators and comes with a character sketch worth framing.

SLAVE LABOR PRESS

- ____ 199706-1025 [R] **Action Girl #7** \$2.75 50%
 ____ 199706-1026 [R] **Action Girl #8** \$2.75 50%
 ____ 199712-0343 [R] **Action Girl #9** \$2.75 50%
In case you missed these earlier issues of this best selling anthology series.
- ____ 199712-0344 [R] **Beer and Roaming in Las Vegas GN** \$12.95 50%
An 88 page magnum opus that would do Hunter S. Thompson proud. A tale of a hapless tourist caught in a maelstrom of high weirdness and cheesy lounge acts. Plus Elvis. Funny material from F. Andrew Taylor.
- ____ 199712-0345 **Dork! #5** \$2.95 50%
At long last a new issue of Dork. The anthology from Evan Dorkin, which shows why he is considered by many to be, the funniest man in comics.



- ____ 199708-0303 [R] **Dork! #4** \$2.95 45%
 ____ 199710-0295 [R] **Dork! #2** \$2.75 50%
 ____ 199709-0283 [R] **Dork! #1** \$2.75 50%

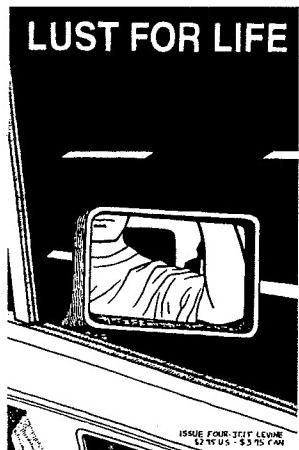
To go along with new issue, we are offering these back issues.

- 199712-0346 [R] Longshot Comics #1 \$2.95 50%
 199706-0023 [R] Longshot Comics #2 \$2.95 50%

This book has more words per page than anything ever written. They are literally thousands of panels per comic. It takes hours to read, but is worth the effort.

- 199712-0347 Lust for Life #4 \$2.95 45%

Join Jeff LeVine for drunken adventures in Los Angeles, drunken adventures in Mexico, and drunken adventures in North Carolina. The return of old friends, meeting new people, and slowly starving to death.



- 199712-0348 Monster Boy Comics #2 \$2.95 50%

Monster Boy enters his super-cool go-cart in the neighborhood race, among other kooky adventures. There's also a hilarious Honky the Clown back-up.

- 199712-0349 Murder Can Be Fun #8 \$2.95 50%

Cheerleader murders and other high school Hi-jinx is the theme of this issue devoted to the art of murder. Includes contributions from Andi Watson, Evan Dorkin, Troy Nixey, and more.

- 199712-0350 [R] Murder Can Be Fun #2 \$2.95 45%

A second printing.

- 199712-0351 [R] Murder Can be Fun T-Shirt L \$20.00 40%

- 199712-0352 [R] Murder Can be Fun T-Shirt XL \$20.00 40%

This shirt features Murder Can be Fun's smiling mascot on the ground riddled with bullet holes. Also, the Murder Can be Fun logo. The shirt is chalk outline and blood red on black.

- 199712-0353 No Hope T-Shirt L \$20.00 40%

- 199712-0354 No Hope T-Shirt XL \$20.00 40%

A cool black shirt with the message NO HOPE. Given they are trying to sell t-shirts in December NO HOPE seems appropriate.



- 199712-0355 Patty Cake and Friends #2 \$2.95 50%

See Jose save Patty-Cake from a life of petty crime. Learn that smells are important to a kid's life. Help Irving deliver milk to his class without embarrassing mistakes. All new stories.

- 199712-0356 Sky Ape #3 \$2.95 50%
Heaven and Hell smack into each other in the middle of the local A&P and Sky Ape is in the middle of it. A very good book that is well-drawn and quite funny.



- 199712-0357 Slacker Comics #17 \$2.95 50%

The beginning of the end as Randy starts his final year of school. Plus the origin of Wak Master's nickname.

- 199712-0358 Squeee #1 \$2.95 50%

A second printing.

SQP

- 199712-0359 [M] Coven: Sisterhood of the Dark \$9.95 45%

The popular image of the warts-and-broomstick-riding witch will be converted to beautiful women with plenty of Hex-Appeal! Pin-ups by Gallego, Zrantza, Byrd, Larson, Hoffman, Sharp, and others.

- 199712-0360 [M] Coven: Sisterhood of the Dark Deluxe Ed. \$19.95 40%
 Signed and numbered and comes with a full color print. Limited to 500.

- 199712-0361 [M] Spellbound-The Keith Parkinson Sketchbook \$9.95 45%
 A collection of sketches that shows how a Keith Parkinson painting comes to be. Each step is explained by Keith with lots of details. Some beautiful artwork.

- 199712-0362 [M] Spellbound-The Keith Parkinson Sketchbook Deluxe Edition \$19.95 40%
 Signed and numbered and comes with a full color print. Limited to 500.

- 199712-0363 [R] Reflection of Myth Vol. 1: Larry Elmore Sketch. \$9.95 45%

- 199712-0364 [R] Reflection of Myth Vol. 2: Larry Elmore Sketch. \$14.95 45%
 Beautiful sketches by TSR artist Larry Elmore. A mix of black and white and color images.

- 199712-0365 [R] Conan Portfolio Set 9 \$25.00 40%
 A gallery of Conan images by John Buscema, Joe Jusko, and Clyde Caldwell. 6 11 x 14 full color plates.

- 199712-0366 Kiss World Tour Book 77-78 \$60.00 40%
 A true collectable for the Kiss fan. From the original world tour in 1977, these are quite scarce and a true collectors item.

- 199712-0367 Batmobile-Toybiz 1989 \$60.00 40%
 Comes in the original box. From the first movie.

- 199712-0368 Batwing-Toybiz 1989 \$60.00 40%
 In the original box. This toy is direct from the first Batman movie.

- 199712-0369 Robin Figure by Hamilton Gifts \$25.00 40%

- 199712-0370 Superman Figure by Hamilton Gifts \$25.00 40%
 These two dolls are based on the classic versions of the characters. Superman is 15" tall and Robin is 12" tall. Both come with metal stands.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher	Description			

TELEVISION COMICS

- ____ 199712-0371 Munsters #3 \$2.95 50%
Three separate stories about the family preparing for a big dinner with Herman's boss. Lily, Grandpa and Herman all have very different ways of preparing. Photo cover.
- ____ 199712-0372 Munsters Special San Diego Comic Con Ed. #1 \$9.95 50%
A wraparound photocover on this rare comic that was only given away at this past years San Diego Comic Con. An all new story about the Munster family actually going to the San Diego Comic Con. Of course laughs ensue.
- ____ 199712-0373 Munsters #1 Celebrity Autograph Edition: Butch Patrick \$22.95 50%
Signed by the original Eddie Munster himself. Comes with a Certificate of Authenticity and a protective seal.
- ____ 199712-0374 The Cray Baby Adventures #2 \$2.95 50%
Now at a new publisher. The action continues as the evil Gwash Monsters have taken over Gwash City but the war goes on. Will the Cray Babies be able to take their town back? Or will the imploding Cray Button destroy them first?
- ____ 199712-0375 Cray Babies Action Figure Promo \$0.00 0%
For every ten of the above Cray Babies #2 you have ordered, you will get one hand crafted custom made Cray Baby Action Figure.

THREE FINGER PRESS

- ____ 199712-0376 The Three Geeks #4 \$2.50 50%
A special issue that features short stories spotlighting each of the three geeks in their own story. Plus the continuing Brain Boy back up continues. Worth reading, very funny material to long time comic fans.

**TOPPS**

- ____ 199712-0377 [Of 4] X-Files: Ground Zero #2 \$2.95 50%
A race against time as people are dropping dead from a top-secret nuclear test. A comic adaptation of the best selling novel by Kevin Anderson. Anderson/Purcell/Mahlstedt/Pratt

- ____ 199712-0378 X-Files #37 \$2.95 50%
Is a genetically altered goat responsible for a series of murders in North Carolina? Scully and Mulder want to know. Rozum/Saviuk/Magyar

- ____ 199712-0379 X-Files Season One-Conduit \$4.95 50%
An adaptation of the episode where Fox revealed the truth about his sister for the first time. Thomas/Scoffield/Van Fleet

- ____ 199712-0380 [Of 3] Xena-Warrior Princess and the Dragons Teeth #1 Line Art Cover \$2.95 50%
____ 199712-0381 [Of 3] Xena-Warrior Princess and the Dragons Teeth #1 Photo Cover \$2.95 50%

Xena is trapped by an old enemy who has her surrounded by an army that has been grown from the remains of Dragons teeth. Their superior numbers beat down Xena until help comes from an unexpected source. Thomas/Teranishi/Montano

- ____ 199712-0382 [Of 3] Xena-Warrior Princess: Joxer, Warrior Prince #2 Line Art Cover \$2.95 50%

- ____ 199712-0383 [Of 3] Xena-Warrior Princess: Joxer, Warrior Prince #2 Photo Cover \$2.95 50%
Princess Nausicaa thinks that Joxer is the greatest. How can that be? Well, anything is possible when Cupid is involved. Bierbaum/Lim/Gil/Neilson

TWIST AND SHOUT COMICS

- ____ 199712-0384 X-Flies: The Bug Hunt \$12.00 50%
The complete mini-series in one nice little pack complete with a special print.

VANGUARD PRODUCTIONS

- ____ 199712-0385 Tales from the Edge #12 \$4.00 45%
A special 40 page issue that focuses on the one and only Sterenko. It is filled with never-before-seen art as well as background and information on this amazing creator. A must for any fan of the art of comics.

VEROTIK

- ____ 199712-0386 [M] Verotik Illustrated #2 \$6.95 50%
Simon Bisley and Glen Danzig team up for more incredible new pages of zombies and voodoo mayhem with Ge Rouge. Plus Danzig and Duke Mighton offer up more nasty adventures of that blood-red girl, Akuma-She. Cover by Dave Stevens.

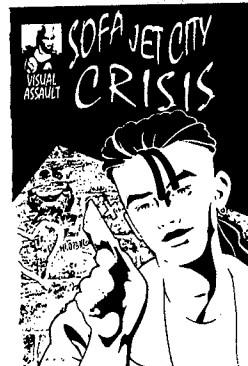
- ____ 199710-0336 [R,M] Verotik Illustrated #1 \$6.95 50%
Still available in limited numbers.

- ____ 199712-0387 [A] Verotika #1 Signed \$25.00 50%
The first issue of this now classic issue. Features the first Satanika story by Bisley and Danzig. Signed by Glen Danzig.

- ____ 199712-0388 [A] Verotika Tpb \$12.95 50%
This trade paperback collects the very best from the pages of Verotika. Includes work by Grant Morrison, Kim Hagen, Glen Danzig, Jimmy Palmiotti and others. Cover by Joe Chiodo. 80 pages.

VISUAL ASSAULT COMICS PRESS

- ____ 199712-0389 [M] Sofa Jet City Crisis GN \$6.95 50%
An excellent graphic novel about growing up in the future in a newly renovated gambling Mecca gone mad. Hofstra is a streetwise kid who might just make a difference if he is giving a chance. Even if he has to make that chance happen himself. By Rhyan Scorpio-Rhys, the 1997 Xeric Foundation winner. 80 pages. Good material from a new creator.



VIZ COMMUNICATIONS

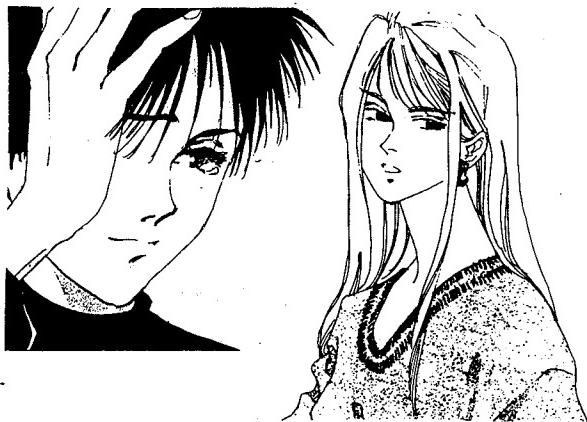
199712-0390 Animerica Volume 5 #12 \$4.95 50%
Mecha, or "Giant Robot" shows are a standard in Japanese animation. Animerica takes a look at mecha in manga, focusing on Mobile Police Patlabor. All this, and a full-length installment of Leiji Matsumoto's Galaxy Express 999.

199712-0391 [Of 9] Battle Angel Alita Part 8 #7 \$2.95 50%
Alita finally reaches Tiphares but she finds the city in the sky is quite different from the Utopia that her late love Hugo longed to visit.

199712-0392 [Of 6] Eat Man #5 \$2.95 50%
When Eat-Man is hired to rid a town of brigands, he soon discovers why no other explorer accepted the job.

199712-0393 [Of 10] Inu Yasha #9 \$3.25 50%
Having failed to force Inu-Yasha to reveal the location of their father's grave, Sesshomaru resorts to trickery and deception.

199712-0394 Love Song #9 GN \$15.95 50%
This collection of short stories by Keiko Nishi, the acclaimed author of Promise, are stunning examples of Shojo manga. A genre where the characters' relationships are as meticulously crafted as the story's action. Read four tales of love, jealousy, hidden power, and dreams.



199712-0395 [Of 13] Maison Ikkoku Part 7 #6 \$3.25 50%
When Kyoko and Yusaku finally get together on their travels through the Japanese countryside, they end up in hot water. Meanwhile, the Maison Ikkoku cuckoos have some precipitous problems of their own.

199712-0396 Manga Vizion Volume 3 #12 \$4.95 50%
This month the exciting new Spriggen story "The Forest of No Return" really heats up. Plus Osamu "God of Manga" Tezuka's Black Jack and more steampunk adventure and mystery with Steam Detectives.

199712-0397 [Of 12] Mobile Police Patlabor #6 \$2.95 50%
Noa and Ota reveal their very different battle styles when they take on the renegade labor threatening Tokyo.

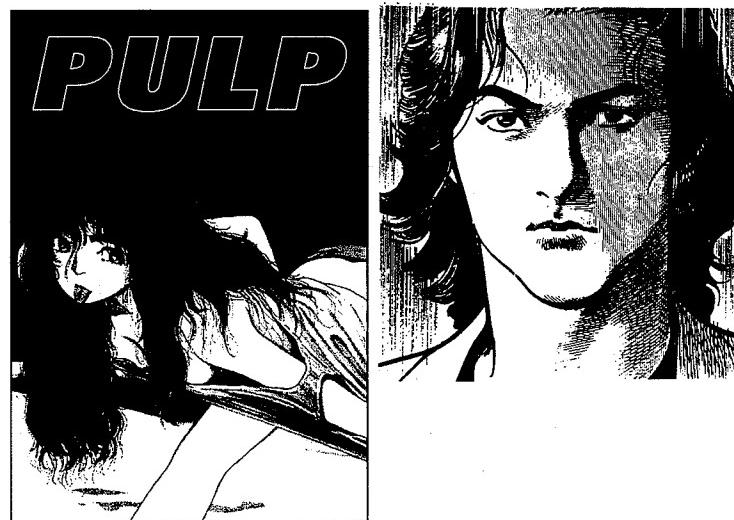
199712-0398 [Of 6] Neon Genesis Evangelion #4 \$2.95 50%
At the controls of the Eva Unit One, Shinji experiences terror for the first time when the Third Angel's vicious assaults on the Eva's body are agonizingly transmitted to his own. As Unit One's systems begin to rapidly shut down, will Shinji's first combat be his last?

199712-0399 [Of 6] Neon Genesis Evangelion Special Ed. #4 \$2.95 50%
For the true collector, this version is printed from right to left like the original manga.

199712-0400 [Of 6] No Need For Tenchi Part 4 #1 \$2.95 50%
Another member of Jurai royal family comes to Earth. On the way, she encounters Minagi, Ryoko's clone and mistakes her for the original notorious space pirate.

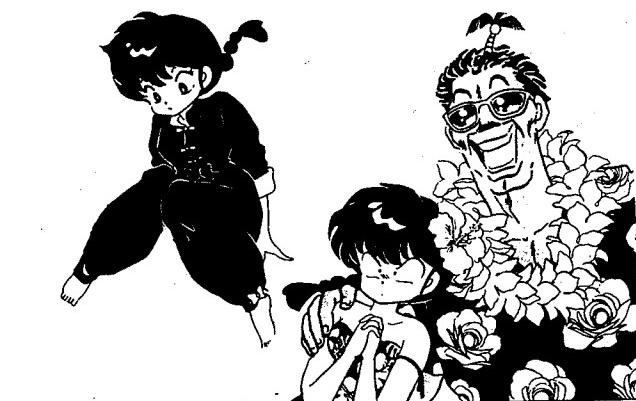
199712-0401 No Need For Tenchi Vol. 2-Sword Play \$15.95 50%
High schooler Tenchi releases the space pirate Ryoko from his grandfather's shrine by accident. Now Ryoko and a gang of attractive alien women all compete for Tenchi's attention. How much love can one poor earth boy give?

199712-0402 [M] Pulp Vol. 1 #2 \$5.95 50%
The manga of Pulp are drawn so boldly, so explicitly, that you won't be able to tear your eyes off them. Great stuff for the mature reader.



199712-0403 [Of 14] Ranma 1/2 Part 6 #13 \$2.95 50%
Ranma has learned the technique to defeat Hoppo despite his weakened state, but the old leach is on to his plan and refuses to fight back.

199712-0404 Ranma 1/2 Vol. 10 \$15.95 50%
Things get cooking when Shampoo concocts a potion designed to make Ranma obey her every command and Hoppo whips up a batch of super-powering noodles. Then Kuno, the long-lost principle of Furinkan High, returns from Hawaii to enforce some badly needed discipline.



199712-0405 [Of 11] Return of Lum: Part Four #5 \$2.95 50%
Will poor Sakura and her boyfriend ever get any privacy with our friends tagging along on their every date? Lum gets a cold; Ataru comes up with a very unhygienic get-rich-quick scheme.

199712-0406 Viz In Magazine Volume 9 #10 \$7.00 20%
Get the latest news on the world of Viz.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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WARP GRAPHICS, INC.

- 199712-0407 **Elfwood Cut Loose #4** \$2.95 50%
It is all out war between the elfin and the humans and the only good human is a dead human. Meanwhile, Windblade is captured by bloodthirsty humans.
- 199712-0408 [Of 2] **Elfquest Worldpool Special #2** \$2.95 50%
The conclusion to the what if story telling what would have happened if Elf and human ever mated. This story is a must for all Elfquest fans.
- 199712-0409 **Elfquest #19** \$4.95 50%
Starting this issue is a new series by Christy Marx and Wendy Pini called "Wolftrider." Plus the newest chapters of "Wild Hunt", "FutureQuest", "Fire Eye", and much more. Cover by Wendy Pini.

**WHITE BUFFALOE PRESS**

- 199712-0410 [A] **Strips #13** \$2.95 50%
Kenna is in deep financial woe and she is considering taking a job at a strip club to help make ends meet. Stripping is not a problem, but what would her father think?



- 199712-0411 [A] **Strips #3 Special Edition** \$2.95 50%
Refurbished Strips #3. A new cover and lots of details about what was happening behind the scenes at the time.

ZAMBONI PRESS

- 199712-0412 **Odd Adventure-Zine #4** \$2.95 50%
A new issue of the book that is so strange it defies description. Yet if you take time to read it you will be so enthralled that you will not be able to put it down. It is sort of like Rocky and Bullwinkle (except here it is Moe and Moose) on acid. Great fun.

MAGAZINES

- 199712-0413 **Action Figure News And Toy Review #63** \$5.95 40%
Featuring the Star Wars Power of the Force 2 review and a Star Wars toy giveaway that will blow you away. Much more.

- 199712-0414 **Animation Magazine Vol. 11 #12** \$4.95 40%
The annual 1998 Industry Directory, the year in Review, The Most Influential in Animation and more. The best selling issue every year.

- 199712-0415 **Airbrush Action October/November 1996** \$6.00 40%
This classic issue with Superman on the cover is still available in limited amounts.

- 199712-0416 [A] **Asian Lace Winter 97/98** \$5.99 40%
Sexy Asian women in sexy lingerie.

- 199712-0417 **Best of Asian Beauties Dec 1997** \$5.99 40%
Like the title says, the most beautiful Asian women in their sexist poses.

- 199712-0418 **Cinefantastique Vol. 29 #9** \$5.99 40%
A report from the set of the new Bond film from London. Wes Craven discusses Scream 2. Plus much more. The magazine for the fantasy and science fiction film fan.

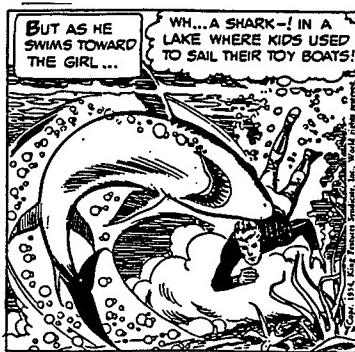
- 199712-0419 **Cinescape #32** \$4.99 40%
A close-up look at the new James Bond movie. Also, a peek at "Species 2" and Kevin Costner's "The Postman."

- 199712-0420 **Cinescape Special #3-Aliens Resurrection** \$9.95 40%
A special full color magazine devoted to the new film Aliens: Resurrection. Lots of color photos and behind the scene stories.

- 199712-0421 **Collect February 1998** \$3.99 40%
This is the bible of non-sports cards magazines. Includes prices for everything under the sun including Magic, the Gathering.

- 199712-0422 **Combo #37** \$4.99 40%
The annual 20 most powerful people in the industry. Find out who has risen to the top and who has fallen to the bottom. Plus much more.

- 199712-0423 **Comics Revue #141** \$5.95 40%
The lead feature this month is Sky Masters by Jack Kirby and Wally Wood. Plus Buzz Sawyer, Alley Oop, Flash Gordon, Phantom, and much more.



- 199712-0424 **Feature Magazine #4** \$3.95 40%
This issue is devoted to Dave Sim including a long interview looking at the first 20 years of Cerebus. There are also commentary by Alan Moore, Neil Gaiman, Steve Bissette, and others about the influence that Sim has had on them.

- 199712-0425 **Fighting Femmes Winter 97/98** \$5.99 40%
Another issue filled with beautiful women either fighting or articles about women fighting. Lots of women wrestler articles.

- 199709-0355 [R] **Fighting Femmes Fall 97** \$5.99 40%
We have a very few of these left.

_____ 199712-0426 Fists of Fury #1	\$15.95	40%
A pricey yet cool magazine from England that is all about 1970's Hong Kong films and Category III films (Hong Kong sex flicks) Lots of great illustrations.		
_____ 199712-0427 Kinky Boots #3	\$19.95	40%
In case you have not figured this one out, it is devoted to fans of high heels and kinky footwear. However #3 does have an article on Femforce. Great photos.		
_____ 199712-0429 Marquis #11	\$19.95	40%
The classiest of the import fetish mags from Europe. Lots of reviews, articles, and pictures. For men and women.		
_____ 199712-0430 Modesty Blaise #12	\$5.95	40%
The new issue of this sequential reprinting of arguably the best adventure strip ever done. Comic strips at their best.		

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



_____ 199712-0431 Riot #3	\$3.95	40%
This issue opens with a look ahead at 1998 and everything that is new for the year. The cover features are so secret even we don't know what it is yet. A great overview of everything that is coming in '98 from comics, books, movies, and much more.		
_____ 199712-0432 [M] Secret #14	\$19.95	40%
Black and white photos that cover the international Fetish scene. Also articles.		
_____ 199712-0433 [A] Shiny International #91	\$19.95	40%
The latest in fashion for Shiny people. That is vinyl and other assorted wear. A great mag for the kinky ones.		
_____ 199712-0434 [A] Scream Queens Illustrated #22	\$6.95	40%
An exclusive interview and pictorial with Ginger Lynn Allen. Also a photo spread of De De Lind! Much more for the fan of scream queens and beautiful women.		
_____ 199712-0435 Star Trek Communicator #115	\$3.95	40%
The official magazine for the Star Trek Fan Club. This is the place to find all of the latest in the world of Star Trek.		
_____ 199712-0436 Tomarts Action Figure Digest #48	\$5.95	40%
The winners of the Figure of the Year award are announced as well as a first look at all of the toys for 1998.		
_____ 199712-0437 Uncut #2	\$14.95	40%
_____ 199712-0438 Uncut #3	\$14.95	40%
_____ 199712-0439 Uncut #4	\$14.95	40%
_____ 199712-0440 Uncut #5	\$14.95	40%
Magazines feature reviews and news of video weirdness from around the world. This cult movie import gets better with each issue and a limited number of back issues are currently available.		

BOOKS**ART BOOKS**

_____ 199712-0455 Alien Life of Wayne Barlow	\$24.95	40%
A full color trade paperback devoted to the art work of Wayne Barlow, one of the greatest science fiction and fantasy painters alive today.		
_____ 199712-0456 Daydreams and Nightmares	\$20.00	40%
A great looking art book focussing on the work of Fred Fields. This 64-page book has over 28 pieces of color art as well as numerous black and white sketches. Plus a detailed look at his background and history. Great for the fantasy art collector.		
_____ 199712-0457 Mystical Lands	\$20.00	45%
A companion book for the one above except it focuses on Larry Elmore, the famous TSR artist. This book looks at how Larry puts together a painting and traces his history from a starving artist to the acclaimed artist he is today.		

COLLECTABLES

_____ 199712-0459 Goldmine Price Guide To Rock N' Roll Memo.	\$24.95	40%
A massive book (800 pages) that reviews, prices, and gives you more information than you would ever want to know about the world of Rock N' Roll Memorabilia. From the editors of Gold Mine.		
_____ 199712-0460 Radio and TV Premiums	\$24.95	40%
A long forgotten part of history is revisited with this book about the classic days of radio and television premiums. In addition to tons of facts about the shows that these premiums come from, there is also a price guide for each of the premiums. Jim Harmon. 288 pages.		

COMIC HEROES

_____ 199712-0461 Blade Movie Adaptation (0-06-105-913-7)	\$5.99	45%
Who's the toughest dude in town? Shaf...oops, wrong movie. This is the official book adaptation of the upcoming movie starring Wesley Snipes as a vampire hunter named Blade. Based on the Marvel comic of the same name.		
_____ 199712-0462 Crow: Quoth the Crow (0-06-1058-25-4)	\$13.00	45%
A trade paperback chronicling the adventures of Jeremy Irons, the newest Crow. Now you can read an all-new Crow adventure in one sitting, and it will come out on time. 256 pages. Trade paperback.		
_____ 199712-0463 Independence Day: Silent Zone	\$5.99	45%

And you thought it all ended with the movie. This best selling hardcover know in paperback.

_____ 199712-0464 Spider-Man: Valley of the Lizard	\$6.50	45%
A new Spiderman novel by John Vornholz. Spider-Man travels to Mexico after the crazed Lizard. Except now the Lizard has an army of reptiles to do his bidding.		

EROTICA

_____ 199712-0451 [M] 1000 Dessous	\$29.99	40%
A history of the female under garment known around the world as lingerie. Lots of illustrations and photos and done up right as only Taschen can.		
_____ 199712-0452 [M] Girlie Magazines	\$29.99	40%

A reprint of the most famous American Girlie magazines. Over 650 illustrations that show everything from the girl next door to the polite tease. No pussy's here, if you please.

_____ 199712-0458 Roy Stuart (3-8228-7872-3)	\$29.99	40%
Roy Stuart is famous for his ability to take sex and eroticism and make it into art. He is obsessed with sex, yet it stylistically has to be perfect. A unique look at a unique man. 160 pages. HC.		

HONG KONG

_____ 199712-0441 Best of Eastern Heroes	\$30.00	40%
Contains the very best stills, articles, and reviews from the first 19 out-of-print issues of Eastern Heroes magazine. Imported from England.		

Horror

_____ 199712-0442 Daria Nicolodi: Deep Red Diva	\$15.95	40%
A small (44 pages) imported book about Italian scream queen, Daria Nicolodi. Photos, interviews, and a complete filmography.		

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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- 199712-0443 [M] **Deadly China Dolls** \$50.00 40%
Amazing color photos, thick fat book compiled by Rick Baker and Toby Russell. 260 pages about Maggie Cheung, Michelle Yeoh, Moon Lee, Amy Nip, Carrie Ng, and hundreds more. Complete filmographies and career info. Nudity.
- 199712-0444 **Disorder and Genius** \$15.95 40%
A walk on the wide side with the master of weird films, Klaus Kinski. Some weird stuff here.
- 199712-0445 [M] **Euro-Girls** \$39.95 40%
Incredible selection of photos and stills of the most beautiful women who have appeared in Italian and Spanish horror films. Nudity.
- 199712-0446 **Euro Trash and Ad-Mat Apocalypse** \$12.95 40%
A collection of European movie posters with commentary by John Martin. Some classic materials like the section on Spanish Werewolf movies.
- 199712-0447 **John Morghen: The Nastiest Man in the World** \$15.95 40%
This one man has starred in "Cannibal Apocalypse", "Cannibal Frox", "Gates of Hell" and many more blood soaked films. So what makes him tick? Find out in this imported book filled with gory photos, interviews and more.
- 199712-0448 [M] **Let the Sleeping Corpse Lie** \$15.95 40%
Lots of gory illustration fill this book that takes an up-close and in depth look at the movie Living Dead At the Manchester Morgue.
- 199712-0449 **Mondo Argento** \$34.95 40%
Color and black and white pictures highlight this exhaustive look at the films and career of Dario Argento.
- 199712-0450 **Tom Savini** \$39.95 40%
Tons of rare stills fill this book about the special effects master as well as the actor. Who can forget him as Love Machine in Dusk To Dawn. A career update as well as the longest interview he has ever done.
- JAPANESE CINEMA**
- 199712-0453 **Anime Reference Guide Vol. 4 #1** \$9.95 45%
From the Anime Expo 1997 comes this guide book that not only outlines the theme from the show this year, but it also is filled with information about the world of anime. Articles on Dragonball GT, Bakuretsu, and many more.
- 199712-0454 **Japanese Cinema Encyclopedia: Horror, Fantasy, Science Fiction** \$19.95 40%
A massive trade (340 pages) from publisher of Asian Cult Cinema. This book covers almost every possible area of Japanese cinema from Horror flicks to Monsters. Lots of little known facts as well as insight into the Japanese culture. A great book.
- MOVIES/TV**
- 199712-0476 **Buffy the Vampire Slayer 3: Coyote Moon** \$3.99 45%
Buffy and her friends are off to the local fair. But surprise, all is not as it seems as there are vampires about. A mmrp based on the popular TV show.
- 199712-0477 **Dark Shadows Almanac** \$17.95 40%
The 30th anniversary of this long running soap opera which is still a cult classic.
- 199712-0478 **Dark Shadows Companion-25th Anniversary Ed.** \$15.95 40%
A silver anniversary treasure trove of rare color and black and white photographs. A complete history of the original Dark Shadows series, including a synopsis of all 1225 episodes.
- 199712-0479 **Dark Shadows Program Guide** \$9.95 40%
Detailed information on every single episode of Dark Shadows. Everything you would ever want to know.
- 199712-0480 **Dark Shadows Resurrected** \$24.95 40%
Over 150 rare and never-before-seen photos, both color and black and white. Complete episode summaries. Exclusive behind the scenes anecdotes. 176 pages. Hardcover.
- 199712-0485 **Leonard Maltin's 1998 Movie and Video Guide (0-451-19288-5)** \$7.99 45%
Over 1600 pages in this most popular video guide. Leonard Maltin has been at it for over 30 years and he still has it.

199712-0481 **Nightstalker: A 25th Anniversary Companion** \$19.95 40%
Just in time for the 25th anniversary of The Night Stalker, comes this in-depth book about the show with all sorts of neat facts and photos. Fans of the X-Files have a chance to see where their favorite show comes from.

199712-0482 **Official Andy Griffith Show Scrapbook** \$18.95 45%
A trade paperback celebrating the by gone days of Mayberry. Full of interviews with the entire cast and crew, this book is a must have for fans of the TV show.

199712-0483 **The Science of Jurassic Park and The Lost World (0-06-09-7735-3)** \$12.00 45%
David Lindly takes an in-depth look at the science behind these block buster movies and tells you what is really possible. The answers will surprise you.

POP CULTURE

199712-0466 [M] **Funeral Part Volume Two** \$19.95 40%
A bizarre look at the world of apocalypse culture. This book covers everything from movies to music to books to Zines. Some wild material. 128 pages.

199712-0467 [M] **The Fact Sheet Five Zine Reader** \$14.00 40%
The editor of Fact Sheet Five has combed through 1000's of Zines to bring you the very best in this entertaining collection. Some wild and wooly stuff.

199712-0468 **The Tragic Kingdom** \$22.95 45%
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____ 199711-0522 [R] The Necronomicon (#6012) \$10.95 45%
An interesting book written by the Mad Arab about the Great Old Ones and their place in the world. The basis of all Cthulhu knowledge. [ISBN: 1-56882-070-4]

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When H.P. Lovecraft first created the Cthulhu Mythos it was little more than a collection of obscure terms and unpronounceable names. Since that time others have added to the Mythos and it has grown. This book is an encyclopedia containing information and definitions for many of the beings and places in the Mythos. [ISBN: 1-56882-039-9]

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____ 199711-0514 [R] Keeper's Kit (#5110) \$14.95 45%
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199712-0506 [R] MechWarrior Companion	\$15.00
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199712-0507 [R] Shadowrun RPG 2nd Edition	\$25.00
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____ 199711-0547 [R] Marshal Law (#1009) \$15.00 45%
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____ 199711-0557 [R] Babylon 5 Booster Display (#52200) \$46.80 45%
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Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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Description				

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WHITE WOLF

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- ____ 199712-0542 **Technomancer's Toybox (#4207)** \$15.00 45% Magicktech from across the ages awaits here for your approval. From biotech to ancient hardware.
- ____ 199712-0543 **Book of Legions (#6063)** \$18.00 45% The Book of Legions takes you inside the military and bureaucratic structure of Stygia, revealing the secrets of the wraiths who serve, protect, and destroy.
- ____ 199712-0544 **White Wolf Night Edition: Winter 1998 (#5809)** \$0.00 0% A free newsletter for retailers and consumers. Find out the real scoop on what's going on in the wacky world of White Wolf.
- ____ 199711-0588 [R] **Vampire: The Masquerade 2nd Ed. (#2002)** \$28.00 45% The Storytelling game of personal horror. This complete game contains complete rules on creating and playing a vampire in the World of Darkness. Highly recommended! Hardcover.
- ____ 199711-0589 [R] **Vampire 2nd Ed. Screen (#2003)** \$10.00 45% A game screen with information to help the Storyteller run and fast-moving and successful game.
- ____ 199711-0590 [R] **Player's Guide to the Sabbat (#2055)** \$15.00 45% Learn more about playing the bad guy vampires – and you thought they were all bad. See how much you've got to learn.

- ____ 199711-0591 [R] **Vampire Player's Guide 2nd Ed. (#2206)** \$22.00 45% This book contains notes, essays, and supplemental rules that players will find indispensable for their Vampire characters.
- ____ 199711-0592 [R] **Vampire Storyteller's Handbook (#2222)** \$18.00 45% Even the Storyteller needs some help sometimes. This book provides more information on the World of Darkness and the creatures that dwell in it. Great essays on running games and maintaining a consistent mood.
- ____ 199711-0593 [R] **Storyteller's Guide to the Sabbat (#2225)** \$15.00 45% Information on the evil and subversive Sabbat written specifically with the Storyteller in mind. A great sourcebook for characters and adventures.
- ____ 199711-0594 [R] **Book of Nod (#2251)** \$10.95 45% Fiction about the origins of vampires. Can be used as a prop for the game or enjoyed as a book. Trade Paperback.
- ____ 199711-0595 [R] **Dirty Secrets of the Black Hand (#2006)** \$18.00 45% Learn the secrets of the Sabbat organization known as the Black Hand – the bad guys' bad guys.
- ____ 199711-0596 [R] **Clanbook Brujah (#2051)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0597 [R] **Clanbook Gangrel (#2052)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0598 [R] **Clanbook Malkavian (#2053)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0599 [R] **Clanbook Nosferatu (#2054)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0600 [R] **Clanbook Toreador (#2056)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0601 [R] **Clanbook Tremere (#2057)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0602 [R] **Clanbook Ventrite (#2058)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0603 [R] **Clanbook Assamite (#2059)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0604 [R] **Clanbook Setite (#2060)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0605 [A] [R] **Clanbook Tzimisce (#2061)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0606 [R] **Clanbook Lasombra (#2062)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0607 [R] **Clanbook Giovanni (#2063)** \$10.00 45%
- ____ 199711-0608 [R] **Clanbook Ravnos (#2064)** \$10.00 45%
- Everything you always wanted to know about these clan of vampires.
- ____ 199711-0609 [R] **Mummy 2nd Ed. (#2224)** \$18.00 45% Rules and background information on creating mummies for Vampire.
- ____ 199711-0610 [R] **World of Darkness 2nd Ed. (#2226)** \$18.00 45% Contains information on the hidden reaches of the World of Darkness from the Far East to Africa.
- ____ 199711-0611 [R] **Vampire: The Dark Ages (#2800)** \$28.00 45% Includes everything needed to play the damned during the Middle Ages. Fantasy and horror blend perfectly in this setting.
- ____ 199711-0612 [R] **Vampire: Dark Ages Storyteller's Secrets** \$15.00 45% Travel the reaches of Dark Ages Europe. This book gives players access to exotic realms and wondrous tools – and exposes them to nightmarish foes.
- ____ 199711-0613 [R] **Vampire: Dark Ages Companion (#2804)** \$18.00 45% This compendium provides a plethora of new material for Vampire: The Dark Ages players and Storytellers.
- ____ 199711-0614 [R] **Clanbook Cappadocian (#2805)** \$10.00 45% The secrets of the long lost clan of the Cappadocians are revealed in this book.
- ____ 199711-0615 [R] **Libellus Sanguinis 1: Masters of the State** \$15.00 45% A compilation of Clanbooks rewritten for the Dark Ages. Includes the Lasombra, Tzimisce, and the Ventrie.
- ____ 199711-0616 [R] **Werewolf: The Apocalypse 2nd Ed. (#3600)** \$28.00 45% A complete game set in the World of Darkness featuring the downtrodden werewolves as they quest to put off the inevitable destruction of their world. Action-adventure and horror meet to form an interesting and fun game in the modern day. Hardcover.
- ____ 199711-0617 [R] **Book of the Wyrm (#3200)** \$15.00 45% Know your enemy! The Wyrm is the force trying to corrupt the world to its purposes, a purpose the werewolves actively oppose.
- ____ 199711-0618 [R] **Werewolf Player's Guide (#3202)** \$18.00 45% Tips, information, and additional rules for Werewolf players and Storytellers.
- ____ 199711-0619 [R] **Werewolf Storyteller's Guide (#3205)** \$18.00 45% Information and essays written for the Storyteller to aid in running a Werewolf game.
- ____ 199711-0620 [R] **World of Darkness: Combat (#3206)** \$15.00 45% The ultimate book of fighting for any and all of the World of Darkness games.

____ 199711-0621 [R] Silver Fangs Tribebook (#3060)	\$10.00	45%
<i>The heroes of Garou legend. New rules and information on this tribe.</i>		
____ 199711-0622 [R] Bastet (#3075)	\$18.00	45%
<i>The first of the Changing Breeds books featuring the very cool werecats.</i>		
____ 199711-0623 [R] Nuwisha (#2076)	\$12.00	45%
<i>The second of the Changing Breeds books featuring the werecoyotes.</i>		
____ 199711-0624 [R] Litany of the Tribes (#3380)	\$20.00	45%
<i>Includes reprints of the Black Furies, Children of Gaia, and Bone Gnawers Tribebooks.</i>		
____ 199711-0625 [R] Werewolf: The Wild West (#3700)	\$28.00	45%
<i>The werewolves have been around for quite a while – at least since the wild west and this complete game system takes you and your players there. Tons of information on the old west and tips on how to run an entertaining chronicle in the 1800s. Hardcover.</i>		
____ 199711-0626 [R] Mage: The Ascension 2nd Ed. (#4300)	\$28.00	45%
<i>Mages in the modern day in the World of Darkness. Another complete game using the Storyteller system.</i>		
____ 199711-0627 [R] Book of Shadows: Mage Player's Guide	\$18.00	45%
<i>A mixture of rules and fiction offering players new rules and roles for their Mage characters.</i>		
____ 199711-0628 [R] Book of Mirrors: Mage Storyteller's Guide	\$18.00	45%
<i>New information and tips on how to run a game using the Mage Storytelling game.</i>		
____ 199711-0629 [R] Technocracy: Syndicate (#4206)	\$10.00	45%
<i>Some bad guys for the Mage setting. Who holds the purse strings to reality? The Syndicate. Contains history, technomagick, tactics, and more.</i>		
____ 199711-0630 [R] Wraith: The Oblivion 2nd Ed. (#6600)	\$28.00	45%
<i>More undead for the World of Darkness. This time ghosts and spirits are the focus of a Storytelling game.</i>		
____ 199711-0631 [R] Wraith Player's Guide (#6007)	\$18.00	45%
<i>Information on how to play a wraith in the game of the same name.</i>		
____ 199711-0632 [R] Shadow Player's Guide (#6013)	\$18.00	45%
<i>Learn more about the nasty guys of the underworld, the dark part of every wraith – their shadow.</i>		
____ 199711-0633 [R] The Risen (#6302)	\$12.00	45%
<i>Tired of playing insubstantial ghosts? Try playing a Risen, come back from the dead in the rotting body you used to belong in.</i>		
____ 199711-0634 [R] Changeling: The Dreaming 2nd Ed. (#7300)	\$30.00	45%
<i>The Storytelling game of modern fantasy. Play elves, trolls, and other fairies in the modern day. Hardcover.</i>		
____ 199711-0686 [R] Dreams & Nightmares (#7303)	\$16.00	45%
<i>A complete guide to the realms of the Dreaming. This book includes new chimerical creatures and new rules for the effects of the Dreaming. 128 pp. [ISBN: 1-56504-718-4]</i>		
____ 199711-0635 [R] Kithbook Trolls (#7050)	\$12.00	45%
<i>Information on the mighty and honorable trolls.</i>		
____ 199711-0636 [R] Kithbook Sluagh (#7051)	\$12.00	45%
<i>New rules and information on the mysterious and silent sluagh.</i>		
____ 199711-0637 [R] Laws of the Night (#5005)	\$10.95	45%
<i>All the rules for playing a live-action version of Vampire: The Masquerade. Trade Paperback.</i>		
____ 199711-0638 [R] Laws of the Wild (#5007)	\$15.00	45%
<i>Rules for playing live-action werewolves right alongside your vampires. Trade Paperback.</i>		
____ 199711-0639 [R] Vampire: The Masquerade Dice (#5602)	\$5.99	45%
<i>A boxed set with a carrying tube and ten 10-sided dice with an elegant marble appearance.</i>		
____ 199711-0640 [R] Werewolf: The Apocalypse Dice (#5637)	\$5.99	45%
<i>A boxed set with a carrying tube and nine 10-sided dice and one "moon die", to make the phases of luna a part of your game.</i>		

CARDS

____ 199712-0545 Kruase 1998 Standard Catalog of Basketball Cards	\$19.95	40%
<i>This is the most comprehensive price guide and index to basketball cards ever published. From the editors of Sports Collectors Digest.</i>		

____ 199712-0546 **Boris Cards Set Two-Factory Set** \$25.00 40%

The complete 91 card set from Comic Images. Nice work by Boris.

____ 199712-0547 [M] **Clearly Olivia All-Clearchrome Collector Cards** \$49.91 0%

A 90 card set on the new see-through, sexy Clearchrome cards. Beautiful art on a sexy new type of card. 6 OmniChrome cards and 500 autograph cards are randomly inserted. Adult oriented. 7 cards per pack. 36 packs per case.

____ 199712-0548 **Clearly Olivia Binder** \$19.95 40%

A full color binder that can hold the entire set of Olivia cards including chase cards.

____ 199712-0549 **James Bond 007: Tomorrow Never Dies Movie Cards** 43%

An all new collection of cards based on the next Bond film. The entire set of cards will tell the story of the film from start to end. Includes 9 puzzle cards of Terri Hatcher as painted by Joe Jusko. Lots of chase cards also, including ultra cool, black-on-black double sided card featuring Bond in a tux and formal navy wear. 8 cards per pack. 36 packs per box.

____ 199712-0550 **James Bond 007: Tomorrow Never Dies Binder** \$17.95 25%

A full color binder to keep all of your cards in. Including the chase cards.

____ 199712-0551 **GoldenEye Card Set** \$8.00 0%

The complete 90 card set from the first Pierce Brosnan Bond film. Includes all of the chase cards.

____ 199712-0552 **Jumbo Clearchrome Special Edition Collector Cards** \$9.95 30%

Tomb Raider II starring Lara Croft. The first lady of Video games appears in her own exclusive 7-card, oversized (3 3/4 x 4 3/4) Clearchrome set. Will be released in conjunction with the new video game. Cards will feature game tips, game action, and other goodies.

____ 199712-0553 **Lady Death Chromium Mega Card Set #2** \$9.00 0%

The first series was an instant sell-out. This month's amazing set features 6 new pieces of art by painter extraordinaire Stephen Sandoval of Lady Death, Lady Demon, Purgatori, Chastity, Vandala, and hell's bells. And to ensure both protection and collectability, each set is packaged in a wraparound Chromium folder. 6 Chromium Mega Cards per set. 20 sets per case.

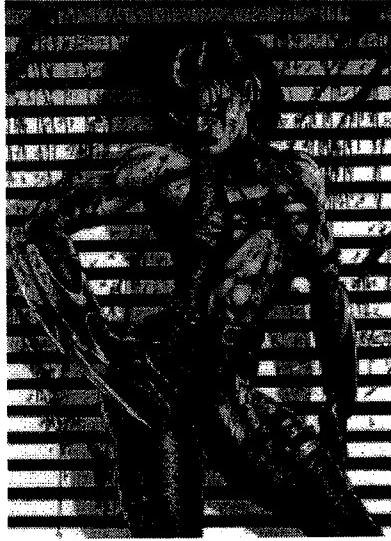


____ 199712-0554 **Razor: Gothic Chromium Trading Cards** \$50.00 0%

This is the third set in the Razor card series. This all new set features 50 high quality Chromium cards spotlighting original art and story by Razor creator Everette Hartsoe. The combination of breathtaking art, superior cardback designs and exciting Hartsoe story will make this set the best selling ever. Subsets include 6-card painted set by Pat Meadows, Vincent Evans, and Armando Huerta (3 per box). As a special bonus, Limited Edition Chromium Hot Boxes will be randomly inserted throughout the series. 36 packs per box. 10 boxes per case. S.R.P. \$2.50 per pack. 6 Chromium cards per pack.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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199712-0555 **Razor: Gothic Chromium Limited Edition Hot Box** \$82.00 0%
With every 6 boxes you purchase of the Razor Cards above, you have the opportunity to buy 1 of these very rare box sets.



199712-0556 **Razor: Gothic Chromium Binder** \$14.95 30%
This binder features beautiful Razor art work on the front and back of the binder and is perfect for the above set or any Razor set.

199712-0905 **Spawn Archive Chromium Card Box Set** \$24.95 40%
For over five years, Spawn, the number one selling Image comic book, has featured some of the finest art ever to grace a comic cover. Now, Wildstorm Productions, Todd McFarlane Entertainment, and Chromium Graphics, Inc. have teamed up to bring you the first 50 classic Spawn covers by Todd McFarlane and Greg Capullo as a complete Chromium card boxed set. Buy the box and you've got the set. As a special bonus, all 50 Chromium cards are packed in a special chromium collector's box. 20 sets per case.

199712-0557 **Vampirella: Blood Lust Collector Cards** \$35.75 0%
A 72 card set by Joe Jusko featuring art from the Blood Lust mini-series. Plus 9 never-before-seen cards done just for this set. Also 6 sneak preview pieces from the upcoming Vampirella: Blood Lust hardcover, 6 randomly inserted "cover gallery", Chromium cards, and 500 randomly inserted autographed cards. 8 cards per pack. 48 packs per box.

199712-0558 **Vampirella: Blood Lust Collector Cards Binder** \$19.95 40%
A full color binder that can hold the entire set of Vampirella cards including chase cards. Plus a uncut 6 card press sheet.

PRINTS

199712-0559 **Chaos! Authentic Limited Edition Signed HoloChrome Print #1: Lady Death/Evil Ernie/Purgatori** \$150.00 35%
A very limited edition HoloChrome print with Lady Death, Evil Ernie and Purgatori rendered by Jose Justiniano, Steven Hughes, Jim Balent and colored by Jason Jenson. Each of these limited 350 prints is hand signed by the artist and packaged with a registration card to redeem a special Chaos! Certificate of Authenticity. Print image is 15" x 21" with a border size of 18" x 24".

199712-0560 **Darkchylde Limited Edition Signed HoloChrome Print #1** \$100.00 35%

A limited print by Darkchylde creator Randy Queen with inks by Jason Gorder and coloring by Jimmy Yu. Each of these 350 prints is hand signed by the artist and packaged with a registration card to redeem a special Darkchylde Certificate of Authenticity. Print area is 15" x 21" with a border of size of 18" x 24".



VIDEOS

ANIME

199712-0561 [A] **Balthus-Tia's Radiance Subt** \$24.95 40%
A tale set in the far future where the people are enslaved by the evil city to the north. Tia tries to escape and help her fellow workers but she is captured by the evil Morlock and sexually tortured. Will she spend the rest of her life going through every sexual torture known to man? And a few that we would have never seen before. Only for adults.

199712-0562 **Dancouger Vol. 7 Subt** \$19.95 40%
The General of the Cyber-Force Beast is dead, now his son Allen carries out his fathers last wish, a space assault from their flying Dragon Base "Gundor" to destroy the alien invaders.

199712-0563 [M] **Ellicia Vol. 4: Ship of Gold Dub** \$24.95 40%

199712-0564 [M] **Ellicia Vol. 4: Ship of Gold Subt** \$29.95 40%

One girl, one ship, one hope for mankind. This is it. The final chilling chapter as Eira and her pirates must face down the combined forces of Nobosu, Phelis, and Chystel. Will the arming of Ellicia, the Ship of God, be completed in time or will the islands of God be wiped clean of life? 50 minutes.

199712-0565 **Final Fantasy Vol. 1 Dub** \$19.95 40%

199712-0566 **Final Fantasy Vol. 1 Subt** \$29.95 40%

Based on the best selling role-playing game. Three of the four magic crystals have been stolen and the heroes must return them before it is too late for Planet R. Can they succeed? 60 minutes.

199712-0567 [M] **Golden Boy 5 Dub** \$19.98 40%

199712-0568 [M] **Golden Boy 5 Subt** \$24.95 40%

Kintaro finds the women of his dreams, except she is addicted to speed and if he can't get find some way to get her to go faster she will leave him. The rules of the road get folded, spindled, and mutilated beyond all recognition in the greatest race of all. 30 minutes.

199712-0569 **Irresponsible Captain Tylor: Bring Me the Head of Captain Tyler Subt** \$19.95 40%

199712-0570 **Irresponsible Captain Tylor: The Most Irresponsible Man in Space Subt** \$19.95 40%

Justy Tylor thought that being the space captain would be simple, but he never realized that he would have to deal with a cranky crew and intergalactic war.

199712-0571 **Maison Ikkoku: Kyoko + Seichiro Dub** \$24.95 40%
Two brand new episodes of this very popular soap opera by Rumiko Takahashi. 52 minutes in English.



199712-0572 **Peacock King: Spirit Warrior 1 CD-ROM Dub** \$19.95 20%
Led by the evil Siegfried Von Mittgard, a group of Neo-Nazis, intend to blanket the world in darkness. However, the forces of light have joined together to oppose them. PC compatible.

199712-0573 **Ranma 1/2 OAV Series: Faster Kasumi, Kill! Kill! Subt.** \$29.95 40%
A special subtitled version of this video.



These Robotech videos will soon be taken off the market. This is your last chance to get them for the foreseeable future. Be sure to stock up while you can.

199712-0574	Robotech Vol. 1 (27465)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0575	Robotech Vol. 2 (27466)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0576	Robotech Vol. 3 (27467)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0577	Robotech Vol. 4 (27468)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0578	Robotech Vol. 5 (27469)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0579	Robotech Vol. 6 (27470)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0580	Robotech Vol. 7 (27471)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0581	Robotech Vol. 8 (27472)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0582	Robotech Vol. 9 (27473)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0583	Robotech Vol. 10 (27474)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0584	Robotech Vol. 11 (27493)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0585	Robotech Vol. 12 (27494)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0586	Robotech Vol. 13 (27495)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0587	Robotech Vol. 14 (27496)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0588	Robotech Vol. 15 (27497)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0589	Robotech Vol. 16 (27498)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0590	Robotech Vol. 17 (27499)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0591	Robotech Vol. 18 (27500)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0592	Robotech Vol. 19 (27501)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0593	Robotech Vol. 20 (27502)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0594	Robotech Vol. 21 (27517)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0595	Robotech Vol. 22 (27518)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0596	Robotech Vol. 23 (27519)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0597	Robotech Vol. 24 (27520)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0598	Robotech Vol. 25 (27521)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0599	Robotech Vol. 26 (27522)	\$14.98	40%

199712-0600	Robotech Vol. 27 (27523)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0601	Robotech Vol. 28 (27524)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0602	Robotech Vol. 29 (27525)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0603	Robotech Vol. 30 (27526)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0604	Robotech Vol. 31 (27578)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0605	Robotech Vol. 32 (27579)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0606	Robotech Vol. 33 (27580)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0607	Robotech Vol. 34 (27581)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0608	Robotech Vol. 35 (27582)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0609	Robotech Vol. 36 (27583)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0610	Robotech Vol. 37 (27584)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0611	Robotech Vol. 38 (27585)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0612	Robotech Vol. 39 (27586)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0613	Robotech Vol. 40 (27587)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0614	Robotech Vol. 41 (27588)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0615	Robotech Vol. 42 (27589)	\$14.98	40%
199712-0616	[M] Sol Bianca Dub	\$19.95	40%

From the director of Bubblegum Crisis. The all-female crew of the Sol Bianca steal the extremely valuable Gnosis, and it leads to the entire galaxy having a revolution. One of the best OAV's ever made. 60 minutes.

199712-0617 **Superdimensional Fortress Macross Dub** \$19.99 40%
Formerly released as Clash of the Bionids, this film has been remastered and redone to add the 20 minutes of missing footage from the original Japanese version. 115 minutes.

199712-0618 **Takegami: Guardian of Darkness Vol. 2 Dub** \$19.95 40%
Sayo is aware that the second dragon is coming, the Dragon of Heaven, can she get to Koichi who has the dragon with him. The question remains, will Koichi let the Dragon free from within him or will his evil alter ego stop him?

199712-0619 **Twilight of the Dark Masters Dub** \$19.95 40%
 199712-0620 **Twilight of the Dark Masters Subt** \$29.95 40%

Since the beginning of time ogres have ruled the Earth, until the Guardians came and removed them. For Hundred of years now Neo-Shinjuku City has been Ogre free. But now, deep beneath the Earth is a monster Ogre is waiting to break free.

199712-0621 **[M] Ushio and Tora Vol. 5 Subt** \$29.95 40%
The special final volume of this wacked out series as both Ushio and Tora find themselves over their heads. Plus includes the bonus Super-Deformed special. 90 minutes.

199712-0622 **Yotoden: Chronicle of the Warlord: Part 3 Subt** \$24.95 40%
The three shadow ninjas might unite one last time to stop the gates of hell from opening and flooding earth with demons. Will they do it though?

HUMOR

199712-0623 **Monty Python's Life of Brian** \$9.99 40%
The Roman Empire was never the same after the Pythons got done with it. Very funny stuff at a great price.

199712-0624 **Time Bandits** \$9.99 40%
A romp through time and space full of Python alumni. By director Terry Gilliam, who went onto make "12 Monkeys", "Brazil", and many other classics. One of his best.

GODZILLA

199712-0625 **Godzilla Box Set** \$49.95 40%
A set of five Godzilla films. Includes "Gozilla Vs. Megalon", "Gozilla Vs. Gigan", "Gozilla 1985", "Ghidrah", and "Gozilla Vs. Mechagodzilla". Yowza.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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- 199712-0626 **Ghidrah (SV10292)** \$9.99 40%
Ghidrah threatens the World and Godzilla, Rodan and Mothra respond to save the world. Or they will die trying.
- 199712-0627 **Godzilla 1985 (SV10288)** \$9.99 40%
It's 1985 and Godzilla is back and he wants to eat a nuclear power plant. Raymond Burr stars as that wild and crazy reporter Steve Martin.
- 199712-0628 **Godzilla Vs. Gigan (SV10280)** \$9.99 40%
Godzilla and Anguirus have both awakened on Monstar Island and they are not happy, so of course they fight.
- 199712-0629 **Godzilla Vs. Megalon (SV10294)** \$9.99 40%
An underwater world is mad about recent nuclear tests so they send Megalon, a giant cockroach, and Gigan, a flying metal creature to destroy Toyko. Until Godzilla steps in to defend Tokyo.
- 199712-0630 **Son of Godzilla (SV10293)** \$9.99 40%
From 1966 comes this tale of a father and his son. Of course, all sorts of monsters want to kill Poppa Godzilla. This title will be limited and is not part of the package above.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 199712-0631 [M] **Sailor Who Fell From Grace With the Sea** \$14.98 40%
When this film was first released it was considered by many to be graphic to be an R rating. It is filled with sex, but it is also a very good story with a great cast, including Sarah Miles and Kris Kristofferson. Uncut and widescreen.

HAMMER FILMS

- 199712-0632 **Quatermass and the Pit** \$14.98 40%
The thriller that began 5 million years ago in another world has come to earth. This Hammer film is one of its best known while few people realize it was a Hammer production. Also known as "5 Million years to Earth". Quite good.
- 199712-0633 **The Lost Continent** \$14.98 40%
This film has been restored to its original state at last (it was cut by its first distributor due to adult content). This is a beautiful wide screen version of the movie about a sea voyage gone wrong with unspeakable monsters, man-eating seaweed, vicious mutant pirates, and stupendously endowed women. Hammer films.

**HONG KONG**

- 199712-0634 [M] **A Better Tomorrow Subt** \$39.99 35%
A battle between the cops and gangsters as well as two brothers. One of John Woo's best.

- 199712-0635 [M] **A Better Tomorrow II Subt** \$39.99 35%
A sequel to the above film, sort of. Once again by John Woo, this one has even more fights and gunplay than the first movie. First time available in America. (Well, legally that is).

- 199712-0636 [M] **A Bullet In the Head Subt** \$39.99 35%
117 minutes of outragous violence by John Woo. This movie was one of the first to really drew attention to John Woo as a director. A great film.

- 199712-0637 [M] **Bloody Beast Subt** \$39.99 35%
A Hong Kong True crime picture which is filled with sex and violence. A category III film.

- 199712-0638 [M] **Ebola Syndrome Subt** \$39.95 35%
A Hong Kong version of Outbreak. Of course, it goes over the top filled with gore and violence.

- 199712-0639 **To Hell With the Devil** \$39.99 35%
An obscure John Woo film from 1982. A Hong Kong version of Faust with a young man selling his soul to the Devil in exchange for fame and glory as a rock star.

SAMURAI

- 199712-0640 **Zatoichi: The Blind Swordsman's Vengeance** \$19.99 35%
From 1966.
- 199712-0641 **Zatoichi: The Blind Swordsman Samaritan** \$19.99 35%
From 1968.
- 199712-0642 **Zatoichi: Masseur Ichi On the Road** \$19.99 35%
From 1964.
- 199712-0643 **Zatoichi: Masseur Ichi The Fugitive** \$19.99 35%
From 1964.
- 199712-0644 **Zatoichi: Adventures of a Blind Man** \$19.99 35%
From 1965.
- 199712-0645 **Zatoichi: The Blindsight's Cane Sword** \$19.99 35%
From 1967.
- 199712-0646 **Zatoichi: Blind Swordsman's Revenge** \$19.99 35%
From 1965.
- 199712-0647 **Zatoichi: Masseur Ichi Enters Again** \$19.99 35%
From 1963. All of these Samurai slash and gash films are filled with violence and sexual overtones. Now at a great price. All letterboxed and sub-titled.

AUDIO

- 199712-0648 **Elfquest: Journey to Sorrows End Vol. 7 and 8** \$16.98 30%
The final two volumes in this audio series of the Elfquest saga.
- 199712-0649 **Elfquest: Journey to Sorrows End Boxed Set** \$64.98 30%
The entire eight-volume, 12 hour series in a boxed set.
- 199712-0650 **Armitage III Poly-Matrix: Soundtrack CD** \$15.98 35%
The soundtrack to the hit anime movie that was just released by Pioneer.
- 199712-0651 **DragonBall: Original USA TV Soundtrack** \$15.98 35%
The soundtrack to the first Dragonball series. A must for the Dragonball fan. Now at a cheap price.
- 199712-0652 **DragonBall Z: Original USA TV Soundtrack** \$15.98 35%
An CD of all of the music from DragonBall Z, At least the version that is seen in the US.

LASER DISCS

- 199712-0653 **Dead and the Deadly LD** \$69.95 20%
A murderous plot to claim the fortune of a wealthy family is thwarted when the spirit of the victim enters the body of a young sorcerer to take revenge.
- 199712-0654 **Dragon Lord LD** \$69.95 20%
A classic about a sleepy southern Chinese town that is turned upside down when a treasure from the Forbidden City is secretly put up for sale. Stars and directed by Jackie Chan. 93 minutes. Letterboxed.
- 199712-0655 **Lady Snowblood #1 LD** \$39.95 20%
This is a widescreen laserdisc with side one being CLV and side two being CAV. Subtitled in English. 97 minutes.

____ 199712-0656 **Men in Black LD** \$34.95 20%
A laser of the hit movie with Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones based on the comic of the same name. Lots of extras.

____ 199712-0657 **Red Lion LD** \$39.95 20%
Based on this western, The Guns of San Sebastian, this samurai epic is filled with fight scenes that will take your breath away. The story is about a stable boy who pretends he is the great leader until the leader returns home from battle and all hell breaks loose. Side 1 is CLV and side 2 is CAV. Widescreen.

____ 199712-0658 **She Shoots Straight LD** \$69.95 20%
92 minutes of women with guns. Lots of fighting. Stars Joyce Godenzi and Carina Lau.

DVD

____ 199712-0659 **Aeon Flux DVD** \$24.98 20%
This hit series from MTV at last comes to DVD. Complete with all sorts of special goodies.

____ 199712-0660 **An American Werewolf In London DVD** \$24.98 20%
John Landis's classic movie about an American tourist and his unfortunate run-in with a werewolf. Soon to be a sequel. Comes with all of the DVD extras.

____ 199712-0661 **Batman and Robin DVD** \$24.98 20%
The latest entry into the Batman mythos as Mr. Freeze and Poison Ivy teamed up to take out the caped crusader. Introduces Batgirl.

____ 199712-0662 **The Great Conqueror's Concubine DVD** \$49.95 20%
A historical masterpiece by Zhang Yimou, the director of "Raise the Red Lantern". A ruthless tale of love and war set in 206 B.C. Stars Gong Li and Rosamund Kwan. 165 minutes. Letterboxed.

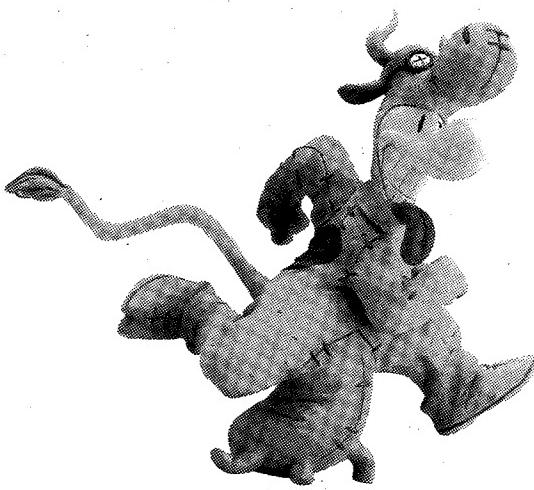
____ 199712-0663 **Men in Black DVD** \$29.95 20%
What a great price for this summer hit full of aliens and laughs.

____ 199712-0664 **Running Man DVD** \$24.98 20%
An early but good Arnold picture. Also stars Jesse "The Body" Ventura and some cool special effects.

____ 199712-0665 **Tai Chi Master DVD** \$49.95 20%
This 1993 classic is done up right, letterboxed and remastered. Kung Fu fight scenes have never looked so good. 95 minutes.

STATUES

____ 199712-0666 **Smiley Bone Ltd. Edition Cold Cast Statue** \$79.00 40%
The third is this series of beautiful Bone statues. This one is of Smiley Bone and is sculpted by Randy Bowen. Over 5" tall. It is full color and comes ready to display. Each piece is numbered. Limited to 2500 pieces.



____ 199712-0667 [R] **Red Dragon and Ted Ltd. Edition Cold Cast Statue** \$195.00 40%
Just so you can complete your set this first one is also available.

____ 199712-0668 **Psylocke in the Danger Room Ltd. Edition Cold Cast Porcelain Figure** \$175.00 40%
A companion piece to the Bishop figure from last year. Psylocke is portrayed completely suspended from the base and is fighting for her life against the danger room. Sculpted by Dean Musson. Each piece is individual numbered and signed and comes with a certificate of authenticity.

____ 199712-0669 **Storm Holiday Hanging Porcelain Ornament** \$30.00 40%
Beautifully sculpted and full of color, this ornament shows Storm flying purposefully on a mission of rescue. Come with a certificate of authenticity.

____ 199712-0670 **Duke Nukem Limited Edition Statue** \$99.00 40%
Sculpted by the Sciellit Brothers and Clayburn and Paul Moore, this fully painted, limited-edition sculpture is the first in Moore Creations' Game Hero Line. 7 3/4" tall. Limited to 8500 pieces. Very cool full color statue of gamings toughest son of a bitch.

T-SHIRTS

____ 199712-0671 **Fantastic Four Regular Print T-Shirt L** (71212) \$14.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0672 **Fantastic Four Regular Print T-Shirt XL** (71212) \$14.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0673 **Fantastic Four Regular Print T-Shirt XXL** (71212) \$18.99 40%

The Fantastic Four "4" logo on a blue t-shirt.

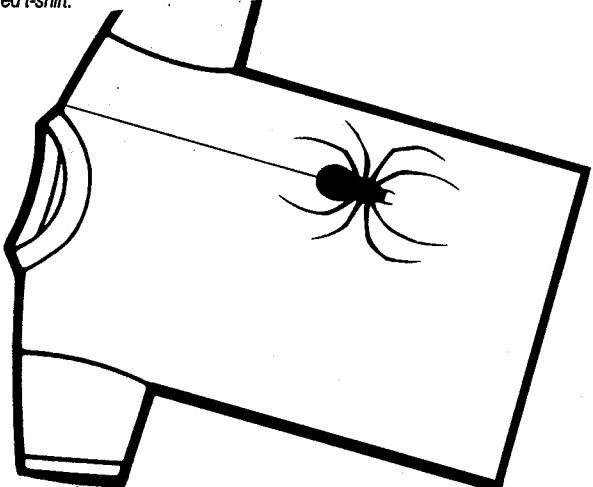


____ 199712-0674 **Sabretooth Regular Print T-Shirt L** (71203) \$14.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0675 **Sabretooth Regular Print T-Shirt XL** (71203) \$14.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0676 **Sabretooth Regular Print T-Shirt XXL** (71203) \$18.99 40%

The cover to X-Factor #136 on a black t-shirt.

____ 199712-0677 **Spider-Man Spider Regular T-Shirt L** (71213) \$14.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0678 **Spider-Man Spider Regular T-Shirt XL** (71213) \$14.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0679 **Spider-Man Spider Regular T-Shirt XXL** (71203) \$18.99 40%

A spider on a red t-shirt.



____ 199712-0680 **Spider-Man Regular T-Shirt L** (71201) \$14.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0681 **Spider-Man Regular T-Shirt XL** (71201) \$14.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0682 **Spider-Man Regular T-Shirt XXL** (71201) \$18.99 40%

The cover to Sensational Spider-Man #21 on a black t-shirt.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher				
Description				

- ____ 199712-0683 Venom Jumbo Print T-Shirt L (71205) \$15.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0684 Venom Jumbo Print T-Shirt XL (71205) \$15.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0685 Venom Jumbo Print T-Shirt XXL (71205) \$19.99 40%

The cover to *Venom Finale #3* on a black t-shirt.



- ____ 199712-0686 Wolverine Jumbo Print T-Shirt L (71206) \$15.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0687 Wolverine Jumbo Print T-Shirt XL (71206) \$15.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0688 Wolverine Jumbo Print T-Shirt XXL (71206) \$19.99 40%

The claw on a white t-shirt.

- ____ 199712-0689 Where the Monsters Dwell Glow-In-The-Dark Jumbo T-Shirt L (71214) \$15.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0690 Where the Monsters Dwell Glow-In-The-Dark Jumbo T-Shirt XL (71214) \$15.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0691 Where the Monsters Dwell Glow-In-The-Dark Jumbo T-Shirt XXL (71214) \$19.99 40%

A retro cover on a black t-shirt.



- ____ 199712-0692 Avengers Full Color T-Shirt L (71208) \$16.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0693 Avengers Full Color T-Shirt XL (71208) \$16.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0694 Avengers Full Color T-Shirt XXL (71208) \$20.99 40%

The covers to *Avengers #1* Heroes Return on a white T-Shirt.



- ____ 199712-0698 Hulk Super-Jumbo T-Shirt L (71210) \$16.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0699 Hulk Super-Jumbo T-Shirt XL (71210) \$16.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0700 Hulk Super-Jumbo T-Shirt XXL (71210) \$20.99 40%

The cover to *Hulk #445* on a black T-Shirt.



- ____ 199712-0701 Spider-Man Super-Jumbo T-Shirt L (71209) \$16.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0702 Spider-Man Super-Jumbo T-Shirt XL (71209) \$16.99 40%
 ____ 199712-0703 Spider-Man Super-Jumbo T-Shirt XXL (71209) \$20.99 40%

- 199712-0704 Fairchild vs. Skin Full-Color T-S L (71211) \$16.99 40%
- 199712-0705 Fairchild vs. Skin Full-Color T-S XL (71211) \$16.99 40%
- 199712-0706 Fairchild vs. Skin Full-Color T-S XXL (71211) \$20.99 40%

Exclusive art just for this t-shirt from the Marvel/Wildstorm crossover. White shirt.



- 199712-0707 Ghost Jumbo Print T-Shirt L (71216) \$15.99 40%
- 199712-0708 Ghost Jumbo Print T-Shirt XL (71216) \$15.99 40%
- 199712-0709 Ghost Jumbo Print T-Shirt XXL (71216) \$19.99 40%

The cover to Ghost #31.

- 199712-0710 Aliens Giant Print Full Color T-S L (71217) \$17.99 40%
- 199712-0711 Aliens Giant Print Full Color T-S XL (71217) \$17.99 40%
- 199712-0712 Aliens Giant Print Full Color T-S XXL (71217) \$21.99 40%

The cover to Aliens PIG #1 on a white t-shirt.

- 199712-0713 Tenchi Muyo Full-Color T-Shirt L (71218) \$16.99 40%
- 199712-0714 Tenchi Muyo Full-Color T-Shirt XL (71218) \$16.99 40%
- 199712-0715 Tenchi Muyo Full-Color T-Shirt XXL (71218) \$20.99 40%

Pioneer's popular anime character on a white t-shirt.



- 199712-0716 Tick Regular T-Shirt L (71219) \$14.99 40%
- 199712-0717 Tick Regular T-Shirt XL (71219) \$14.99 40%
- 199712-0718 Tick Regular T-Shirt XXL (71219) \$18.99 40%

On a white t-shirt.

- 199712-0719 Tick Regular Sweat-Shirt L (71220) \$24.99 40%
- 199712-0720 Tick Regular Sweat-Shirt XL (71220) \$24.99 40%
- 199712-0721 Tick Regular Sweat-Shirt XXL (71220) \$28.99 40%

On a white t-shirt.



- 199712-0722 Vampirella Giant Print Full-Color Process T-Shirt L (71221) \$17.99 40%

- 199712-0723 Vampirella Giant Print Full-Color Process T-Shirt XL (71221) \$17.99 40%

- 199712-0724 Vampirella Giant Print Full-Color Process T-Shirt XXL (71221) \$21.99 40%

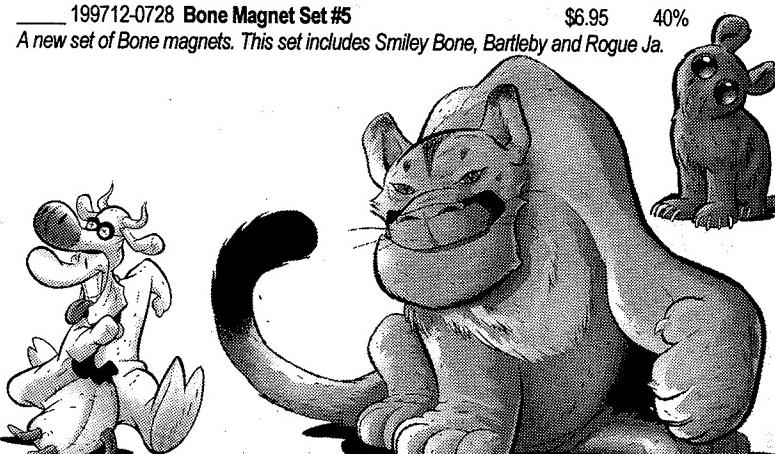
The cover to Vampirella Blood Lust #1 by Joe Jusko on a white t-shirt.

- 199712-0725 Superman Symbol Long Sleeve T-Shirt L \$22.95 40%
- 199712-0726 Superman Symbol Long Sleeve T-Shirt XL \$22.95 40%
- 199712-0727 Superman Symbol Long Sleeve T-Shirt XXL \$25.95 40%

For the first time, the classic Superman S logo on a long sleeve t-shirt. Comes on a navy blue shirt. Perfect for winter.

- 199712-0728 Bone Magnet Set #5 \$6.95 40%

A new set of Bone magnets. This set includes Smiley Bone, Bartleby and Rogue Ja.

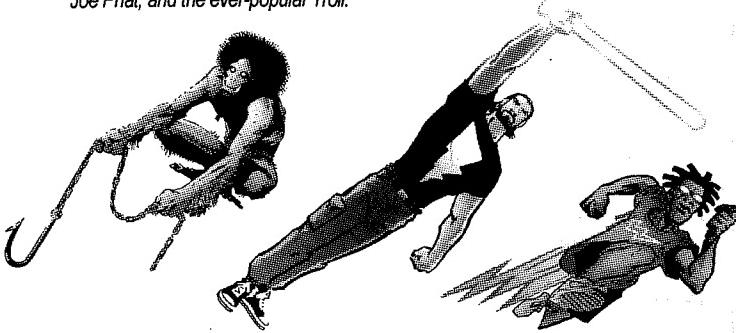


- 199712-0729 [R] Bone Magnet Set #4 \$6.95 40%

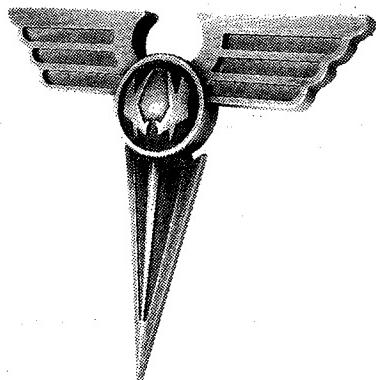
In case you missed it.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
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199712-0730 **Mage Magnet Set** \$6.95 40%
Three full color magnets based on Matt Wagner's Mage. Includes Kevin Matchstick, Joe Phat, and the ever-popular Troll.

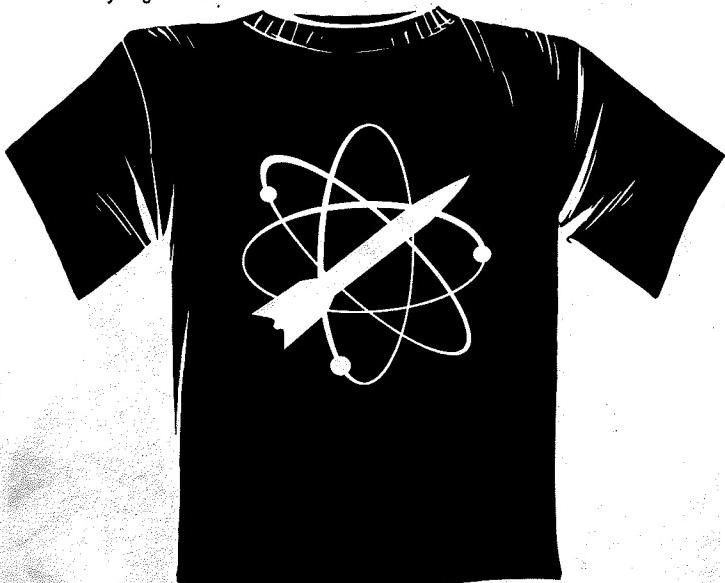


199712-0731 **Grendal Cycle Badge** \$19.95 40%
A metal badge produced by Bowen Designs and Matt Wagner. It is 3" x 3" and it has two clutch-back fixtures on the pin's back. Three dimensional.



199712-0732 **Astro City Symbol T-Shirt L** \$16.95 40%
 199712-0733 **Astro City Symbol T-Shirt XL** \$16.95 40%
 199712-0734 **Astro City Symbol T-Shirt XXL** \$19.95 40%

The classic AC symbol screenprinted on white on the front of a black 100% cotton heavyweight shirt.



199712-0735 **Spawn Born Into Darkness T-Shirt Black L** \$17.95 40%
 199712-0736 **Spawn Born Into Darkness T-Shirt Black XL** \$17.95 40%

A shadow image of Spawn's face.

199712-0737 **Spawn Shadows T-Shirt L** \$17.95 40%
 199712-0738 **Spawn Shadows T-Shirt XL** \$17.95 40%

An image of Spawn huddled up in the pits of hell.

199712-0739 **Spawn T-4 Strain T-Shirt L** \$17.95 40%
 199712-0740 **Spawn T-4 Strain T-Shirt XL** \$17.95 40%

Spawn in the background with his chains flying everywhere.

199708-0554 [R] **Bone II T-Shirt L** \$17.95 40%
 199708-0555 [R] **Bone II T-Shirt XL** \$17.95 40%
 199708-0556 [R] **Bone II T-Shirt XXL** \$19.95 40%

The three Bone cousins on the front of a white t-shirt in a full color image.

199708-0551 [R] **Batman: The Long Halloween T-Shirt L** \$17.95 40%
 199708-0552 [R] **Batman: The Long Halloween T-Shirt XL** \$17.95 40%

199708-0553 [R] **Batman: The Long Halloween T-Shirt XXL** \$19.95 40%

A two-sided t-shirt by Tim Sale. The pumpkin symbol on the front and an image of Batman on the back. Black shirt.

199708-0550 [R] **Cool Creator Coasters Set** \$5.95 40%

12 coasters with 12 different images from some of your favorite creators. Includes Bone, Hellboy, Milk and Cheese, and Madman/Rocket Red 7.

NOVELTIES

199712-0741 **Storm Coin** \$19.95 20%

A limited edition of 5000 coins with an image of Storm by Carlos Pacheco. On the flip side is a bio of Storm and the coin's individual number.



199712-0742 **Batgirl Statue** \$24.95 35%
 199712-0743 **Green Lantern Statue** \$24.95 35%
 199712-0744 **Shazam Statue** \$24.95 35%

These are extremely detailed bronze statues of your favorite superheroes. These are great for the true comic book fan. The details are amazing. Each statue comes with its own display stand and a special biographical card about the hero's background.

WEAPONS

199712-0745 [A] **Black Cobra Serpent Knife** \$39.95 35%
This barbaric knife features two intertwined snakes forming the handle for the stainless steel blade.

199712-0746 [A] **Ninja Warrior Sword** \$179.95 35%
This real, (sharpened black finished 420 stainless steel) sword features two throwing stars that detach from the handguard while the black aluminum scabbard conceals a battle tool, two 8.5" mini tanto knives and a throwing knife that doubles as a spear tip.

Code	Title	Issue	Price	Discount
Publisher	Description			

SUPPLIES

____ 199706-5000	Long Comic Boxes 1-99	\$2.75	0%	
____ 199706-5001	Long Comic Boxes 100-500	\$2.50	0%	
____ 199706-5002	Long Comix Boxes 500 or more.	Call for a price.		
____ 199706-5003	Half Comic Boxes 1-99	\$2.35	0%	
____ 199706-5004	Half Comic Boxes 100-500	\$2.25	0%	
____ 199706-5005	Half Comic Boxes 500 or more.	Call for a price.		
____ 199706-5006	Magazine Boxes 1-99	\$2.50	0%	
____ 199706-5007	Magazine Boxes 100-500	\$2.35	0%	
____ 199706-5008	Magazine Boxes 500 or more.	Call for a price.		
____ 199706-5009	Idealites (1 ml.) Packed in 100's. Modern	\$15.00	0%	
____ 199706-5010	Idealites (1 ml.) Packed in 100's. Silver Age	\$15.00	0%	
____ 199706-5011	Idealites (1 ml.) Packed in 100's. Golden Age	\$16.00	0%	
____ 199706-5012	Ideal Classic Open Tops (Mylars r) Modern	7 1/4 x 11 1/4. Packed in 50's	\$64.00	0%
____ 199706-5013	Ideal Classic Open Tops (Mylars r) Silver	7 3/4 x 11 1/4. Packed in 50's	\$68.00	0%
____ 199706-5014	Ideal Classic Open Tops (Mylars r) Golden	8 1/4 x 11 1/4. Packed in 50's	\$68.00	0%
____ 199706-5015	All White Backing Boards-Modern	(1000)	\$44.00	0%
____ 199706-5016	All White Backing Boards-Silver	(1000)	\$44.00	0%
____ 199706-5017	All White Backing Boards-Golden	(500)	\$31.00	0%
____ 199706-5018	All White Backing Boards-Magazine	(500)	\$32.00	0%
____ 09-0027	Short Term Backing Boards New		\$28.00	0%
____ 09-0028	Short Term Backing Boards Silver		\$28.00	0%

COMIC ART SUPPLIES

____ 199710-0643	Blue Line Comic Book Cover Sheets	\$7.95	40%
	11" x 17" 3-ply Brite art index board. Non-photo blue ink and an image area of 10 3/4" x 16". 12 to a pack.		
____ 199710-0644	Blue Line Comic Book Layout Pages	\$6.95	40%
	8 1/2" x 11" 60lb. Premium bond in non-photo blue. Marking so you can make up to four thumbnails per page. 30 to a pack.		
____ 199710-0645	Blue Line Pro Comic Book Pages	\$12.95	40%
	11" x 17" with an image area of 10" x 15". 3-ply Brute Art Tag. Quick drying. Also has one page of Pro Comics Book Cover Sheets. 24 to a pack.		
____ 199710-0646	Blue Line Concept Sketch Pages	\$6.95	40%
	8 1/2" x 11" premium index board with non-repo blue. Includes marking area to record notes and a character template. Non-repo service. 25 to a pack.		
____ 199710-0647	Blue Line Comic Pages (20 pack)	\$9.95	40%
	2 ply art board. 11" x 17" with an image area of 10" x 15". Pre-printed with a non-photo blue border. Ink doesn't soak. 20 pages per.		
____ 199710-0648	Blue Line Create Your Own Comic Boxed Set	\$18.95	40%
	Includes one character template, six concept sketch pages, 6 comic book layout pages, 24 sheets of comic book pages, one cover sheet and a 24 page instruction book.		
____ 199710-0649	Blue Line Sampler	\$7.95	40%
	Includes 4 Comic Book Pages, 4 Concept Sketch Pages, 3 Comic Book Pro pages, 3 Comic Book Pro Layout Pages, and 3 Comic Book Cover Sheets.		
____ 199710-0650	S400 Series Strathmore Smooth Comic Book Pages	\$19.50	0%
____ 199710-0651	S400 Series Strathmore Reg Comic Book Pages	\$19.90	0%
	2-ply acid free bristol board. Smooth pages are for detailed work with pencil and marker. Also works with pencil, inks, charcoal and pastel. Pre-printed with a non-photo blue border. 20 pages per pack.		





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2. That we are in the business of selling and/or distributing books, trading cards, games, clothing, novelties, and related items;
3. That we will resell the tangible personal property which we shall buy from FM International, Inc.
4. And further certify that if any property so purchased tax free is used or consumed by the firm for purposes other than retention, demonstration, or display while holding it for sale in the regular course of business as to make it subject to a sales or use tax, we will report and pay the proper tax due directly to the proper taxing authority. Further, we shall inform FM International, Inc. and reimburse it for any taxes, fines, interest or other charges, it may have had to pay because of our failure to supply it with current accurate information with respect to our account and any non-exempt use we may make of materials purchased from it. This certificate shall be part of each order which we may hereafter give to FM International, Inc. unless our order specifies otherwise.

I declare under the penalties of false statement that this certificate has been examined by me and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is a true, correct, and complete certificate. When placing orders on this account, I will abide by the terms and conditions specified in the various publications and catalogs of FM International, including terms of payment. All purchases made through this account are made exclusively for business purposes and not for personal use. The undersigned is at least 18 years of age (and if a resident of the State of Alaska, Nebraska or Wyoming, is at least 19 years of age; and if a resident of Puerto Rico, is at least 21 years of age) and is authorized to sign this application on behalf of the applicant.

Authorized Signature: _____ Please print name and SS# here: _____

From the masters of comics storytelling
Frank Miller & Simon Bisley in their
first collaborative effort...

**BAD
BOY**

BAD

GROW UP TO BE JUST LIKE HIM.

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U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Liberty Place Building
Washington, DC 20530

October 27, 1997

MJM:JDV
60-2721-0009

By Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

Irving Scher, Esq.
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10153-0119

COMICS
60-2721-0009
MOLLENBREY
EDELHEIT
CTF FILES
MUCCHETTI
VILLA
OSMER
OZERI
ALEXANDER
DUNHAM

Re: Civil Investigative Demand Number 17159

Dear Irv:

The attached Civil Investigative Demand ("CID") is issued to DC Comics pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1311-14, and requires DC Comics to answer the interrogatories and produce the documents specified in the attached Schedule. Per our earlier discussion, you stated that you would accept service of this CID on DC Comics' behalf. The Antitrust Division requires these documents and interrogatory answers as part of an investigation into possible unreasonable trade restraints and monopolization in comic-book distribution and sales.

As noted on the CID, DC Comics' compliance is required by November 21, 1997. On the CID's reverse side is a certificate which all persons responsible for producing the required documents and interrogatory answers must submit with DC Comics' response.

As the CID indicates, I am the Deputy Custodian of the documents and interrogatory answers sought from you. To minimize DC Comics' inconvenience in complying with the CID and to assist us, we propose that DC Comics submit copies of all documents by mail or messenger to the following address:

James D. Villa
Civil Task Force
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
Liberty Place Building, Third Floor
325 Seventh Street, N.W. -
Washington, DC 20530 (if via U.S. mail)
20004 (if via Federal Express)

As I mentioned to you during our conversations, please contact me upon reviewing the CID so that we may discuss any issues relating to DC Comics' compliance. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (202) 514-8361.

Sincerely,

James Villa
James D. Villa
Trial Attorney
Civil Task Force

Enclosures

United States Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
Washington, D.C. 20530

TO DC Comics
1700 Broadway
New York, New York 10019

Civil Investigative 17159

Demand No.

This civil investigative demand is issued pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act, 15 U.S.C. §§1311-1314, in the course of an antitrust investigation to determine whether there is, has been, or may be a violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1 and 2

by conduct, activities or proposed action of the following nature: restraint of trade and monopolization in the sale and distribution of comic books.

You are required by this demand to produce all documentary material described in the attached schedule that is in your possession, custody or control, and to make it available at your address indicated above for inspection and copying or reproduction by a custodian named below. You are also required to answer the interrogatories on the attached schedule. Each interrogatory must be answered separately and fully in writing, unless it is objected to, in which event the reasons for the objection must be stated in lieu of an answer. Such production of documents and answers to interrogatories shall occur on the 21st day of Nov., 1997 at 10:00 a.m. xxx.

The production of documentary material and the interrogatory answers in response to this demand must be made under a sworn certificate, in the form printed on the reverse side of this demand, by the person to whom this demand is directed or, if not a natural person, by a person or persons having knowledge of the facts and circumstances relating to such production and/or responsible for answering each interrogatory.

For the purposes of this investigation, the following are designated as the custodian and deputy custodian(s) to whom the documentary material shall be made available and the interrogatory answers shall be submitted: Mary Jean Moltenbrey, Custodian; James D. Villa and Peter J. Mucchetti, Deputy Custodians; U.S. Dept. of Justice, Antitrust Division, 325 Seventh Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20530.

Inquiries concerning compliance should be directed to James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J. Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652.

Your attention is directed to 18 U.S.C. §1505, printed in full on the reverse side of this demand, which makes obstruction of this investigation a criminal offense.

Issued at Washington, D.C., this 24th day of Oct, 1997


Carol B. Bellamy
Assistant Attorney General

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

I. DEFINITIONS

1. "Agreement" means any contract, arrangement, or understanding, formal or informal, oral or written, direct or indirect, express or implied, between two or more persons.
2. "DC Comics" means DC Comics, its predecessors, successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and other persons controlled or owned, directly, indirectly, wholly or in part by it, and each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present and former trustees, directors, officers, employees, agents, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.
3. "Distributor" means any person who sells or distributes comic books on behalf of a publisher on a non-returnable basis and includes each of the distributor's authorized distributors, predecessors, or successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, each other person directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, owned or controlled by any of them, each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present or former officers, directors, agents, employees, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.
4. "Document" means any written, recorded, or graphic material, whether prepared by you or any other person, that is in your possession, custody, or control, including memoranda, reports, letters, telegrams, e-mail, recorded communications, notes, minutes, transcripts, contracts, agreements, statements, ledgers, financial records, notebooks, diaries, diagrams, graphs, charts, drawings, plans, specifications, publications, photographs, photocopies, microfilm, reproductions, and computer tape, disk, recordings and printouts. The term includes all document drafts and copies that differ from the original, such as notations, underlinings, or other markings. The term also includes information stored in, or accessible through, computer or other

information retrieval systems, together with instructions and all other materials necessary to use or interpret such data.

5. "Identify" means to state:

- (a) in the case of a natural person, his or her name, employer, dates of employment, title or position, business address, and telephone number;
- (b) in the case of a person other than a natural person, its name, principal address, contact person, and telephone number; and
- (c) in the case of a legal or administrative proceeding, the case name, names of all involved parties, the court or agency, the case or other identifying number, each party's principal contentions, the beginning date, the ending date, and the proceeding's status or outcome, including the contents of any settlement or consent decree.

6. "Including" means including but not limited to.

7. "Independent distributor" means any person who sells or distributes comic books on behalf of a publisher on a returnable basis and includes each of the distributor's authorized distributors, predecessors, or successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, each other person directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, owned or controlled by any of them, each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present or former officers, directors, agents, employees, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.

8. "Person" means any natural person, corporation, firm, company, sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, association, institute, governmental unit, or other legal entity.

9. "Publisher" means any person, except one operating solely as a distributor or

retailer of comic books, who sells, distributes, supplies, or provides comic books to any other person.

10. "Relating to" means including, stating, discussing, describing, referring to, reflecting, containing, analyzing, studying, reporting on, commenting on, evidencing, constituting, setting forth, considering, recommending, concerning, or pertaining to, in whole or in part.

11. "Retailer" means any comic book specialty store, newsstand, mass-market store, book store, book trader, wholesale club, and any other person that sells directly to consumers.

12. "You," "your" or "your company" means DC Comics.

II. INSTRUCTIONS

1. Unless otherwise specified, this schedule calls for answers to interrogatories for, and production of documents prepared, sent, received or in effect at, any time after January 1, 1994.

2. Preface each interrogatory answer with the text of the interrogatory to which that answer responds.

3. If any portion of a document is responsive to any document request, then the entire document must be produced. If any document contains privileged material, produce the entire document with the privileged material deleted. If any document cannot be produced in full for a reason other than a claim of privilege, produce the document to the extent possible, specify why you cannot produce the remainder of the document, and provide any information, knowledge or belief you have concerning the unproduced portion.

4. Any document or part of a document withheld under a claim of privilege must be

preserved. For each document or part of a document that is withheld under a claim of privilege, submit a sworn or certified statement from your attorney or a duly authorized officer of your company in which you:

- (a) identify the document and any attachments or appendices;
- (b) identify all persons to whom copies were sent or distributed and all other persons to whom the document or its contents were disclosed in whole or in part;
- (c) state the document's current location and the name of its current custodian;
- (d) state the basis on which privilege is claimed; and
- (e) state the number of the Request(s) to which the document is responsive.

5. If you refuse to answer an interrogatory pursuant to a privilege, state the nature and the basis of the privilege claimed. If you are unable to answer an interrogatory fully, submit as much information as possible, and explain why your answer is incomplete. If precise information cannot be supplied, (a) submit your best estimate or judgment, so identified, and set out the source or basis of the estimate or judgment, and (b) provide such information available to you as comes closest to providing the information requested. Where incomplete answers, estimates or judgments are submitted, and you know of or have reason to believe that there are other sources of more complete or accurate information, identify or describe those other sources of information.

6. Any documents that are stapled, clipped, or otherwise fastened together shall not be separated. Place all documents in file folders or other enclosures bearing your company's name, the number of the document request to which the documents are responsive, and the individual's name from whose files the documents were produced.

7. Please mark each page with your company's name or abbreviation and number each page consecutively beginning with "1." These marks should be placed at the lower right-hand corner of the page, but should not obscure any information on the document.

8. Machine-readable data responsive to any document request should be provided in a form that does not require specialized or proprietary hardware or software. The data should be readable by a personal computer employing Microsoft DOS and should be produced on 3.5 inch magnetic discs in DOS-compatible form. Provide the following information about the data:

- a. file name;
- b. file format (e.g., ASCII, etc.);
- c. number of bytes;
- d. disk density;
- e. operating system and versions;
- f. record layout (i.e., description, length, and position of each field); and
- g. translation on tables for encoded fields.

If you wish to provide machine-readable documents in a format that differs from these guidelines, please contact James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J. Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652 to determine if the proposed format will be acceptable.

9. No agreement by the Department of Justice or its representatives purporting to modify, limit, or otherwise vary this schedule binds the Department of Justice unless the agreement is confirmed in writing or made in open court by a duly authorized representative.

10. If you have any questions regarding this demand's scope or meaning, or if you wish to discuss any proposed modifications, contact James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J.

Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652.

III. INTERROGATORIES

1. Describe each method by which your comic books are distributed to retailers and sold to consumers and separately for each such method, state the percentage of your total dollar sales of comic books which are made through that method.
2. State whether you distribute comic books using a brokerage agreement with any distributor and if so, state when you began using this arrangement and state each reason for using such an arrangement.
3. Separately for 1994, 1995, 1996, and year to date 1997, identify each distributor who has distributed comic books for you and separately for each distributor, state the total dollar amount of comic books that person distributed for you.
4. Describe each reason you entered into a distributorship agreement with Diamond.
5. Identify each person who has or has had any responsibility for recommending, setting, negotiating, approving, or supervising:
 - (a) your conditions of sale, credit terms, prices, brokerage arrangement or commissions between you and any distributor;
 - (b) your prices, payment or credit terms, or conditions of sale for the comic book sales to any retailer; and
 - (c) your marketing or strategic planning.
6. Identify each legal or administrative proceeding brought under any federal or state antitrust law in which you were a party.

7. Describe all types or kinds of information that you are able obtain electronically from Diamond.

IV. DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. One copy of all organizational charts and telephone directories for your company.
2. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing competition in the publishing, distribution, or retail sales of comic books.
3. For each year 1994, 1995, 1996 and year to date 1997, documents sufficient to show the percentage of your comic books which are distributed to consumers through:
 - (a) independent distributors;
 - (b) comic book distributors (such as Diamond, Capital City, etc.); and
 - (c) all others.
4. Each document that constitutes or contains:
 - (a) any of your operating, marketing or strategic plans; or
 - (b) any study, analysis, projection, or review of the comic book publishing, distribution, or retail industry.
5. For each year 1994, 1995, 1996, and year to date 1997, documents sufficient to identify all comic book publishers, including the total dollar amount of sales for each such publisher.
6. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing entry into the business of publishing or distributing comic books.
7. Each agreement between you and any distributor of comic books.

8. Each agreement between you and any retailer of comic books.
9. Each document relating to any actual or contemplated agreement(s) between you

and:

- (a) Marvel Comics;
- (b) Image Comics;
- (c) Dark Horse Comics;
- (d) Diamond Comic Distributors; or
- (e) Capital City Distribution.

10. Each document relating to any communication between you and Marvel, Image, or Dark Horse relating to distribution of comic books.

11. Each document relating to any actual or contemplated distributorship agreement between you and any distributor of comic books.

12. Documents sufficient to show the percentage of your sales of comic books that are made through:

- (a) comic book specialty stores;
- (b) book stores;
- (c) newsstands; and
- (d) other sources.

13. Each document relating to your option to purchase Diamond, including any documents obtained through due diligence.
14. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing customer satisfaction, service quality, complaints, recommendations, or suggestions for improved service relating to distribution of comic books.
15. Each document relating to Diamond's acquisition of Capital City Distribution, Inc.'s assets.
16. Each document relating to Marvel's acquisition of Heroes World, including:
 - (a) each document that constitutes or contains any study, survey, or analysis of the acquisition;
 - (b) each document relating to any perceived, potential or actual advantage or disadvantage of the acquisition;
 - (c) each document relating to the acquisition's perceived, potential or actual effect on any person, product's sales, or distribution; and
 - (d) each document relating to the acquisition's economic effect or legality under the antitrust laws.
17. Each annual profit and loss, financial statement, and balance sheet from 1994 to 1996, and 1997 year to date.
18. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing changes in your prices, conditions of sale, payment terms, cooperative advertising efforts, promotional plans, discount plans or programs, and credit guidelines for comic book sales to distributors or retailers.
19. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing the data,

information, reports, or other material which you can obtain electronically from Diamond or through access to Diamond's computers.

20. Each document relating to your policy concerning retention, storage, or destruction of documents.



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

*Liberty Place Building
Washington, DC 20530*

October 27, 1997

MJM:JDV
60-2721-0009

By Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

Mark Anderson, Esq.
General Counsel
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 South East Main Street
Milwaukee, Oregon 97222

COMICS
60-2721-0009
MOLLENBREY
EDELHEIT
CTF FILES
MUCCHETTI
VILLA
OSMER
OZERI
ALEXANDER
DUNHAM

Re: Civil Investigative Demand Number 17160

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The attached Civil Investigative Demand ("CID") is issued to Dark Horse Comics, Inc. ("Dark Horse") pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1311-14, and requires Dark Horse to answer the interrogatories and produce the documents specified in the attached Schedule. The Antitrust Division requires these documents and interrogatory answers as part of an investigation into possible unreasonable trade restraints and monopolization in comic-book distribution and sales.

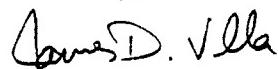
As noted on the CID, Dark Horse's compliance is required by November 21, 1997. On the CID's reverse side is a certificate which all persons responsible for producing the required documents and interrogatory answers must submit with Dark Horse's response.

As the CID indicates, I am the Deputy Custodian of the documents and interrogatory answers sought from you. To minimize Dark Horse's inconvenience in complying with the CID and to assist us, we propose that Dark Horse submit copies of all documents by mail or messenger to the following address:

James D. Villa
Civil Task Force
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
Liberty Place Building, Third Floor
325 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530 (if via U.S. mail)
20004 (if via Federal Express)

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (202) 514-8361.

Sincerely,



James D. Villa
Trial Attorney
Civil Task Force

Enclosures

United States Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
Washington, D.C. 20530

TO Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 South East Main Street
Milwaukee, Oregon 97222

Civil Investigative 7160
Demand No.

This civil investigative demand is issued pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act, 15 U.S.C. §§1311-1314, in the course of an antitrust investigation to determine whether there is, has been, or may be a violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1 and 2

by conduct, activities or proposed action of the following nature: restraint of trade and monopolization in the sale and distribution of comic books.

You are required by this demand to produce all documentary material described in the attached schedule that is in your possession, custody or control, and to make it available at your address indicated above for inspection and copying or reproduction by a custodian named below. You are also required to answer the interrogatories on the attached schedule. Each interrogatory must be answered separately and fully in writing, unless it is objected to, in which event the reasons for the objection must be stated in lieu of an answer. Such production of documents and answers to interrogatories shall occur on the 21st day of Nov., 1997 at 10:00 a.m. EST.

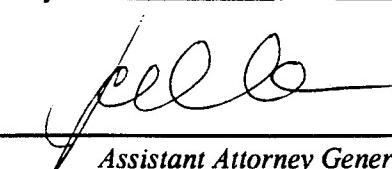
The production of documentary material and the interrogatory answers in response to this demand must be made under a sworn certificate, in the form printed on the reverse side of this demand, by the person to whom this demand is directed or, if not a natural person, by a person or persons having knowledge of the facts and circumstances relating to such production and/or responsible for answering each interrogatory.

For the purposes of this investigation, the following are designated as the custodian and deputy custodian(s) to whom the documentary material shall be made available and the interrogatory answers shall be submitted: Mary Jean Moltenbrey, Custodian; James D. Villa and Peter J. Mucchetti, Deputy Custodians; U.S. Dept. of Justice, Antitrust Division, 325 Seventh Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20530.

Inquiries concerning compliance should be directed to James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J. Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652.

Your attention is directed to 18 U.S.C. §1505, printed in full on the reverse side of this demand, which makes obstruction of this investigation a criminal offense.

Issued at Washington, D.C., this 24th day of Oct., 1997


Assistant Attorney General

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

I. DEFINITIONS

1. "Agreement" means any contract, arrangement, or understanding, formal or informal, oral or written, direct or indirect, express or implied, between two or more persons.
2. "Dark Horse" means Dark Horse Comics, Inc. its predecessors, successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and other persons controlled or owned, directly, indirectly, wholly or in part by it, and each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present and former trustees, directors, officers, employees, agents, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.
3. "Distributor" means any person who sells or distributes comic books on behalf of a publisher on a non-returnable basis and includes each of the distributor's authorized distributors, predecessors, or successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, each other person directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, owned or controlled by any of them, each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present or former officers, directors, agents, employees, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.
4. "Document" means any written, recorded, or graphic material, whether prepared by you or any other person, that is in your possession, custody, or control, including memoranda, reports, letters, telegrams, e-mail, recorded communications, notes, minutes, transcripts, contracts, agreements, statements, ledgers, financial records, notebooks, diaries, diagrams, graphs, charts, drawings, plans, specifications, publications, photographs, photocopies, microfilm, reproductions, and computer tape, disk, recordings and printouts. The term includes all document drafts and copies that differ from the original, such as notations, underlinings, or other markings. The term also includes information stored in, or accessible through, computer or other

information retrieval systems, together with instructions and all other materials necessary to use or interpret such data.

5. "Identify" means to state:

- (a) in the case of a natural person, his or her name, employer, dates of employment, title or position, business address, and telephone number;
- (b) in the case of a person other than a natural person, its name, principal address, contact person, and telephone number; and
- (c) in the case of a legal or administrative proceeding, the case name, names of all involved parties, the court or agency, the case or other identifying number, each party's principal contentions, the beginning date, the ending date, and the proceeding's status or outcome, including the contents of any settlement or consent decree.

6. "Including" means including but not limited to.

7. "Independent distributor" means any person who sells or distributes comic books on behalf of a publisher on a returnable basis and includes each of the distributor's authorized distributors, predecessors, or successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, each other person directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, owned or controlled by any of them, each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present or former officers, directors, agents, employees, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.

8. "Person" means any natural person, corporation, firm, company, sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, association, institute, governmental unit, or other legal entity.

9. "Publisher" means any person, except one operating solely as a distributor or

retailer of comic books, who sells, distributes, supplies, or provides comic books to any other person.

10. "Relating to" means including, stating, discussing, describing, referring to, reflecting, containing, analyzing, studying, reporting on, commenting on, evidencing, constituting, setting forth, considering, recommending, concerning, or pertaining to, in whole or in part.

11. "Retailer" means any comic book specialty store, newsstand, mass-market store, book store, book trader, wholesale club, and any other person that sells directly to consumers.

12. "You," "your" or "your company" means Dark Horse.

II. INSTRUCTIONS

1. Unless otherwise specified, this schedule calls for answers to interrogatories for, and production of documents prepared, sent, received or in effect at, any time after January 1, 1994.

2. Preface each interrogatory answer with the text of the interrogatory to which that answer responds.

3. If any portion of a document is responsive to any document request, then the entire document must be produced. If any document contains privileged material, produce the entire document with the privileged material deleted. If any document cannot be produced in full for a reason other than a claim of privilege, produce the document to the extent possible, specify why you cannot produce the remainder of the document, and provide any information, knowledge or belief you have concerning the unproduced portion.

4. Any document or part of a document withheld under a claim of privilege must be

preserved. For each document or part of a document that is withheld under a claim of privilege, submit a sworn or certified statement from your attorney or a duly authorized officer of your company in which you:

- (a) identify the document and any attachments or appendices;
- (b) identify all persons to whom copies were sent or distributed and all other persons to whom the document or its contents were disclosed in whole or in part;
- (c) state the document's current location and the name of its current custodian;
- (d) state the basis on which privilege is claimed; and
- (e) state the number of the Request(s) to which the document is responsive.

5. If you refuse to answer an interrogatory pursuant to a privilege, state the nature and the basis of the privilege claimed. If you are unable to answer an interrogatory fully, submit as much information as possible, and explain why your answer is incomplete. If precise information cannot be supplied, (a) submit your best estimate or judgment, so identified, and set out the source or basis of the estimate or judgment, and (b) provide such information available to you as comes closest to providing the information requested. Where incomplete answers, estimates or judgments are submitted, and you know of or have reason to believe that there are other sources of more complete or accurate information, identify or describe those other sources of information.

6. Any documents that are stapled, clipped, or otherwise fastened together shall not be separated. Place all documents in file folders or other enclosures bearing your company's name, the number of the document request to which the documents are responsive, and the individual's name from whose files the documents were produced.

7. Please mark each page with your company's name or abbreviation and number each page consecutively beginning with "1." These marks should be placed at the lower right-hand corner of the page, but should not obscure any information on the document.

8. Machine-readable data responsive to any document request should be provided in a form that does not require specialized or proprietary hardware or software. The data should be readable by a personal computer employing Microsoft DOS and should be produced on 3.5 inch magnetic discs in DOS-compatible form. Provide the following information about the data:

- a. file name;
- b. file format (e.g., ASCII, etc.);
- c. number of bytes;
- d. disk density;
- e. operating system and versions;
- f. record layout (i.e., description, length, and position of each field); and
- g. translation on tables for encoded fields.

If you wish to provide machine-readable documents in a format that differs from these guidelines, please contact James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J. Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652 to determine if the proposed format will be acceptable.

9. No agreement by the Department of Justice or its representatives purporting to modify, limit, or otherwise vary this schedule binds the Department of Justice unless the agreement is confirmed in writing or made in open court by a duly authorized representative.

10. If you have any questions regarding this demand's scope or meaning, or if you wish to discuss any proposed modifications, contact James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J.

Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652.

III. INTERROGATORIES

1. Describe each method by which your comic books are distributed to retailers and sold to consumers and separately for each such method, state the percentage of your total dollar sales of comic books which are made through that method.
2. State whether you distribute comic books using a brokerage agreement with any distributor and if so, state when you began using this arrangement and state each reason for using such an arrangement.
3. Separately for 1994, 1995, 1996, and year to date 1997, identify each distributor who has distributed comic books for you and separately for each distributor, state the total dollar amount of comic books that person distributed for you.
4. Describe each reason you entered into a distributorship agreement with Diamond.
5. Identify each person who has or has had any responsibility for recommending, setting, negotiating, approving, or supervising:
 - (a) your conditions of sale, credit terms, prices, brokerage arrangement or commissions between you and any distributor;
 - (b) your prices, payment or credit terms, or conditions of sale for the comic book sales to any retailer; and
 - (c) your marketing or strategic planning.
6. Identify each legal or administrative proceeding brought under any federal or state antitrust law in which you were a party.

7. Describe all types or kinds of information that you are able obtain electronically from Diamond.

IV. DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. One copy of all organizational charts and telephone directories for your company.
2. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing competition in the publishing, distribution, or retail sales of comic books.
3. For each year 1994, 1995, 1996 and year to date 1997, documents sufficient to show the percentage of your comic books which are distributed to consumers through:
 - (a) independent distributors;
 - (b) comic book distributors (such as Diamond, Capital City, etc.); and
 - (c) all others.
4. Each document that constitutes or contains:
 - (a) any of your operating, marketing or strategic plans; or
 - (b) any study, analysis, projection, or review of the comic book publishing, distribution, or retail industry.
5. For each year 1994, 1995, 1996, and year to date 1997, documents sufficient to identify all comic book publishers, including the total dollar amount of sales for each such publisher.
6. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing entry into the business of publishing or distributing comic books.
7. Each agreement between you and any distributor of comic books.

8. Each agreement between you and any retailer of comic books.
9. Each document relating to any actual or contemplated agreement(s) between you

and:

- (a) Marvel Comics;
- (b) DC Comics;
- (c) Image Comics;
- (d) Diamond Comic Distributors; or
- (e) Capital City Distribution.

10. Each document relating to any communication between you and Marvel, DC Comics, or Image relating to distribution of comic books.

11. Each document relating to any actual or contemplated distributorship agreement between you and any distributor of comic books.

12. Documents sufficient to show the percentage of your sales of comic books that are made through:

- (a) comic book specialty stores;
- (b) book stores;
- (c) newsstands; and
- (d) other sources.

13. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing customer satisfaction, service quality, complaints, recommendations, or suggestions for improved service relating to distribution of comic books.

14. Each document relating to Diamond's acquisition of Capital City Distribution,

Inc.'s assets.

15. Each document relating to Marvel's acquisition of Heroes World, including:
 - (a) each document that constitutes or contains any study, survey, or analysis of the acquisition;
 - (b) each document relating to any perceived, potential or actual advantage or disadvantage of the acquisition;
 - (c) each document relating to the acquisition's perceived, potential or actual effect on any person, product's sales, or distribution; and
 - (d) each document relating to the acquisition's economic effect or legality under the antitrust laws.

16. Each annual profit and loss, financial statement, and balance sheet from 1994 to 1996, and 1997 year to date.

17. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing changes in your prices, conditions of sale, payment terms, cooperative advertising efforts, promotional plans, discount plans or programs, and credit guidelines for comic book sales to distributors or retailers.

18. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing the data, information, reports, or other material which you can obtain electronically from Diamond or through access to Diamond's computers.

19. Each document relating to your policy concerning retention, storage, or destruction of documents.



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

*Liberty Place Building
Washington, DC 20530*

October 27, 1997

MJM:JDV
60-2721-0009

By Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

Larry Marder
Executive Director
Image Comics, Inc.
1440 North Harbor Blvd., Suite 305
Fullerton, California 92835

COMICS
60-2721-0009
MOLLENBREY
EDELHEIT
CTF FILES
MUCCHETTI
VILLA
OSMER
OZERI
ALEXANDER
DUNHAM

Re: Civil Investigative Demand Number 17161

Dear Mr. Marder:

The attached Civil Investigative Demand ("CID") is issued to Image Comics, Inc. ("Image") pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1311-14, and requires Image to answer the interrogatories and produce the documents specified in the attached Schedule. The Antitrust Division requires these documents and interrogatory answers as part of an investigation into possible unreasonable trade restraints and monopolization in comic-book publication, distribution, and sales.

As noted on the CID, Image's compliance is required by November 21, 1997. On the CID's reverse side is a certificate which all persons responsible for producing the required documents and interrogatory answers must submit with Image's response.

As the CID indicates, I am the Deputy Custodian of the documents and interrogatory answers sought from you. To minimize Image's inconvenience in complying with the CID and to assist us, we propose that Image submit copies of all documents by mail or messenger to the following address:

James D. Villa
Civil Task Force
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
Liberty Place Building, Third Floor
325 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530 (if via U.S. mail)
20004 (if via Federal Express)

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (202) 514-8361.

Sincerely,



James D. Villa
Trial Attorney
Civil Task Force

Enclosures

United States Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
Washington, D.C. 20530

TO Image Comics, Inc.
1440 North Harbor Blvd.
Suite 305
Fullerton, CA 92835

Civil Investigative 17161
Demand No.

This civil investigative demand is issued pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act, 15 U.S.C. §§1311-1314, in the course of an antitrust investigation to determine whether there is, has been, or may be a violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1 and 2

by conduct, activities or proposed action of the following nature: restraint of trade and monopolization in the sale and distribution of comic books.

You are required by this demand to produce all documentary material described in the attached schedule that is in your possession, custody or control, and to make it available at your address indicated above for inspection and copying or reproduction by a custodian named below. You are also required to answer the interrogatories on the attached schedule. Each interrogatory must be answered separately and fully in writing, unless it is objected to, in which event the reasons for the objection must be stated in lieu of an answer. Such production of documents and answers to interrogatories shall occur on the 21st day of Nov., 1997 at 10:00 a.m. p.m.

The production of documentary material and the interrogatory answers in response to this demand must be made under a sworn certificate, in the form printed on the reverse side of this demand, by the person to whom this demand is directed or, if not a natural person, by a person or persons having knowledge of the facts and circumstances relating to such production and/or responsible for answering each interrogatory.

For the purposes of this investigation, the following are designated as the custodian and deputy custodian(s) to whom the documentary material shall be made available and the interrogatory answers shall be submitted: Mary Jean Moltenbrey, Custodian; James D. Villa and Peter J. Mucchetti, Deputy Custodians; U.S. Dept. of Justice, Antitrust Division, 325 Seventh Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20530.

Inquiries concerning compliance should be directed to James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J. Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652.

Your attention is directed to 18 U.S.C. §1505, printed in full on the reverse side of this demand, which makes obstruction of this investigation a criminal offense.

Issued at Washington, D.C., this 24th day of Oct., 1997


Assistant Attorney General

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

I. DEFINITIONS

1. "Agreement" means any contract, arrangement, or understanding, formal or informal, oral or written, direct or indirect, express or implied, between two or more persons.
2. "Image" means Image Comics, Inc., its predecessors, successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and other persons controlled or owned, directly, indirectly, wholly or in part by it, and each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present and former trustees, directors, officers, employees, agents, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.
3. "Distributor" means any person who sells or distributes comic books on behalf of a publisher on a non-returnable basis and includes each of the distributor's authorized distributors, predecessors, or successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, each other person directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, owned or controlled by any of them, each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present or former officers, directors, agents, employees, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.
4. "Document" means any written, recorded, or graphic material, whether prepared by you or any other person, that is in your possession, custody, or control, including memoranda, reports, letters, telegrams, e-mail, recorded communications, notes, minutes, transcripts, contracts, agreements, statements, ledgers, financial records, notebooks, diaries, diagrams, graphs, charts, drawings, plans, specifications, publications, photographs, photocopies, microfilm, reproductions, and computer tape, disk, recordings and printouts. The term includes all document drafts and copies that differ from the original, such as notations, underlinings, or other markings. The term also includes information stored in, or accessible through, computer or other

information retrieval systems, together with instructions and all other materials necessary to use or interpret such data.

5. "Identify" means to state:

- (a) in the case of a natural person, his or her name, employer, dates of employment, title or position, business address, and telephone number;
- (b) in the case of a person other than a natural person, its name, principal address, contact person, and telephone number; and
- (c) in the case of a legal or administrative proceeding, the case name, names of all involved parties, the court or agency, the case or other identifying number, each party's principal contentions, the beginning date, the ending date, and the proceeding's status or outcome, including the contents of any settlement or consent decree.

6. "Including" means including but not limited to.

7. "Independent distributor" means any person who sells or distributes comic books on behalf of a publisher on a returnable basis and includes each of the distributor's authorized distributors, predecessors, or successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, each other person directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, owned or controlled by any of them, each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present or former officers, directors, agents, employees, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.

8. "Person" means any natural person, corporation, firm, company, sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, association, institute, governmental unit, or other legal entity.

9. "Publisher" means any person, except one operating solely as a distributor or

retailer of comic books, who sells, distributes, supplies, or provides comic books to any other person.

10. "Relating to" means including, stating, discussing, describing, referring to, reflecting, containing, analyzing, studying, reporting on, commenting on, evidencing, constituting, setting forth, considering, recommending, concerning, or pertaining to, in whole or in part.

11. "Retailer" means any comic book specialty store, newsstand, mass-market store, book store, book trader, wholesale club, and any other person that sells directly to consumers.

12. "You," "your" or "your company" means Image.

II. INSTRUCTIONS

1. Unless otherwise specified, this schedule calls for answers to interrogatories for, and production of documents prepared, sent, received or in effect at, any time after January 1, 1994.

2. Preface each interrogatory answer with the text of the interrogatory to which that answer responds.

3. If any portion of a document is responsive to any document request, then the entire document must be produced. If any document contains privileged material, produce the entire document with the privileged material deleted. If any document cannot be produced in full for a reason other than a claim of privilege, produce the document to the extent possible, specify why you cannot produce the remainder of the document, and provide any information, knowledge or belief you have concerning the unproduced portion.

4. Any document or part of a document withheld under a claim of privilege must be

preserved. For each document or part of a document that is withheld under a claim of privilege, submit a sworn or certified statement from your attorney or a duly authorized officer of your company in which you:

- (a) identify the document and any attachments or appendices;
- (b) identify all persons to whom copies were sent or distributed and all other persons to whom the document or its contents were disclosed in whole or in part;
- (c) state the document's current location and the name of its current custodian;
- (d) state the basis on which privilege is claimed; and
- (e) state the number of the Request(s) to which the document is responsive.

5. If you refuse to answer an interrogatory pursuant to a privilege, state the nature and the basis of the privilege claimed. If you are unable to answer an interrogatory fully, submit as much information as possible, and explain why your answer is incomplete. If precise information cannot be supplied, (a) submit your best estimate or judgment, so identified, and set out the source or basis of the estimate or judgment, and (b) provide such information available to you as comes closest to providing the information requested. Where incomplete answers, estimates or judgments are submitted, and you know of or have reason to believe that there are other sources of more complete or accurate information, identify or describe those other sources of information.

6. Any documents that are stapled, clipped, or otherwise fastened together shall not be separated. Place all documents in file folders or other enclosures bearing your company's name, the number of the document request to which the documents are responsive, and the individual's name from whose files the documents were produced.

7. Please mark each page with your company's name or abbreviation and number each page consecutively beginning with "1." These marks should be placed at the lower right-hand corner of the page, but should not obscure any information on the document.

8. Machine-readable data responsive to any document request should be provided in a form that does not require specialized or proprietary hardware or software. The data should be readable by a personal computer employing Microsoft DOS and should be produced on 3.5 inch magnetic discs in DOS-compatible form. Provide the following information about the data:

- a. file name;
- b. file format (e.g., ASCII, etc.);
- c. number of bytes;
- d. disk density;
- e. operating system and versions;
- f. record layout (i.e., description, length, and position of each field); and
- g. translation on tables for encoded fields.

If you wish to provide machine-readable documents in a format that differs from these guidelines, please contact James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J. Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652 to determine if the proposed format will be acceptable.

9. No agreement by the Department of Justice or its representatives purporting to modify, limit, or otherwise vary this schedule binds the Department of Justice unless the agreement is confirmed in writing or made in open court by a duly authorized representative.

10. If you have any questions regarding this demand's scope or meaning, or if you wish to discuss any proposed modifications, contact James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J.

Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652.

III. INTERROGATORIES

1. Describe each method by which your comic books are distributed to retailers and sold to consumers and separately for each such method, state the percentage of your total dollar sales of comic books which are made through that method.
2. State whether you distribute comic books using a brokerage agreement with any distributor and if so, state when you began using this arrangement and state each reason for using such an arrangement.
3. Separately for 1994, 1995, 1996, and year to date 1997, identify each distributor who has distributed comic books for you and separately for each distributor, state the total dollar amount of comic books that person distributed for you.
4. Describe each reason you entered into a distributorship agreement with Diamond.
5. Identify each person who has or has had any responsibility for recommending, setting, negotiating, approving, or supervising:
 - (a) your conditions of sale, credit terms, prices, brokerage arrangement or commissions between you and any distributor;
 - (b) your prices, payment or credit terms, or conditions of sale for the comic book sales to any retailer; and
 - (c) your marketing or strategic planning.
6. Identify each legal or administrative proceeding brought under any federal or state antitrust law in which you were a party.

7. Describe all types or kinds of information that you are able obtain electronically from Diamond.

IV. DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. One copy of all organizational charts and telephone directories for your company.
2. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing competition in the publishing, distribution, or retail sales of comic books.
3. For each year 1994, 1995, 1996 and year to date 1997, documents sufficient to show the percentage of your comic books which are distributed to consumers through:
 - (a) independent distributors;
 - (b) comic book distributors (such as Diamond, Capital City, etc.); and
 - (c) all others.
4. Each document that constitutes or contains:
 - (a) any of your operating, marketing or strategic plans; or
 - (b) any study, analysis, projection, or review of the comic book publishing, distribution, or retail industry.
5. For each year 1994, 1995, 1996, and year to date 1997, documents sufficient to identify all comic book publishers, including the total dollar amount of sales for each such publisher.
6. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing entry into the business of publishing or distributing comic books.
7. Each agreement between you and any distributor of comic books.

8. Each agreement between you and any retailer of comic books.
9. Each document relating to any actual or contemplated agreement(s) between you

and:

- (a) Marvel Comics;
- (b) DC Comics;
- (c) Dark Horse Comics;
- (d) Diamond Comic Distributors; or
- (e) Capital City Distribution.

10. Each document relating to any communication between you and Marvel, DC Comics, or Dark Horse relating to distribution of comic books.

11. Each document relating to any actual or contemplated distributorship agreement between you and any distributor of comic books.

12. Documents sufficient to show the percentage of your sales of comic books that are made through:

- (a) comic book specialty stores;
- (b) book stores;
- (c) newsstands; and
- (d) other sources.

13. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing customer satisfaction, service quality, complaints, recommendations, or suggestions for improved service relating to distribution of comic books.

14. Each document relating to Diamond's acquisition of Capital City Distribution,

Inc.'s assets.

15. Each document relating to Marvel's acquisition of Heroes World, including:
 - (a) each document that constitutes or contains any study, survey, or analysis of the acquisition;
 - (b) each document relating to any perceived, potential or actual advantage or disadvantage of the acquisition;
 - (c) each document relating to the acquisition's perceived, potential or actual effect on any person, product's sales, or distribution; and
 - (d) each document relating to the acquisition's economic effect or legality under the antitrust laws.

16. Each annual profit and loss, financial statement, and balance sheet from 1994 to 1996, and 1997 year to date.

17. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing changes in your prices, conditions of sale, payment terms, cooperative advertising efforts, promotional plans, discount plans or programs, and credit guidelines for comic book sales to distributors or retailers.

18. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing the data, information, reports, or other material which you can obtain electronically from Diamond or through access to Diamond's computers.

19. Each document relating to your policy concerning retention, storage, or destruction of documents.



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

*Liberty Place Building
Washington, DC 20530*

October 27, 1997

MJM:JDV
60-2721-0009

By Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

COMICS
60-2721-0009
MOETENBREY
EDELHEIT
CTF FILES
MUCCHETTI
VILLA
OSMER
OZERI
ALEXANDER
DUNHAM

Pamela Bradford, Esq.
General Counsel
Marvel Comics, Inc.
387 Park Avenue, South
New York, New York 10016

Re: Civil Investigative Demand Number 1716?

Dear Ms. Bradford:

The attached Civil Investigative Demand ("CID") is issued to Marvel pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1311-14, and requires Marvel to answer the interrogatories and produce the documents specified in the attached Schedule. The Antitrust Division requires these documents and interrogatory answers as part of an investigation into possible unreasonable trade restraints and monopolization in comic-book distribution and sales.

As noted on the CID, Marvel's compliance is required by November 21, 1997. On the CID's reverse side is a certificate which all persons responsible for producing the required documents and interrogatory answers must submit with Marvel's response.

As the CID indicates, I am the Deputy Custodian of the documents and interrogatory answers sought from you. To minimize Marvel's inconvenience in complying with the CID and to assist us, we propose that Marvel submit copies of all documents by mail or messenger to the following address:

James D. Villa
Civil Task Force
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
Liberty Place Building, Third Floor
325 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530 (if via U.S. mail)
20004 (if via Federal Express)

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (202) 514-8361.

Sincerely,



James D. Villa
Trial Attorney
Civil Task Force

Enclosures

United States Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
Washington, D.C. 20530

TO Marvel Comics, Inc.
387 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Civil Investigative 17162
Demand No.

This civil investigative demand is issued pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act, 15 U.S.C. §§1311-1314, in the course of an antitrust investigation to determine whether there is, has been, or may be a violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1 and 2

by conduct, activities or proposed action of the following nature: restraint of trade and monopolization in the sale and distribution of comic books.

You are required by this demand to produce all documentary material described in the attached schedule that is in your possession, custody or control, and to make it available at your address indicated above for inspection and copying or reproduction by a custodian named below. You are also required to answer the interrogatories on the attached schedule. Each interrogatory must be answered separately and fully in writing, unless it is objected to, in which event the reasons for the objection must be stated in lieu of an answer. Such production of documents and answers to interrogatories shall occur on the 21st day of Nov., 1997 at 10:00 a.m. xpm.

The production of documentary material and the interrogatory answers in response to this demand must be made under a sworn certificate, in the form printed on the reverse side of this demand, by the person to whom this demand is directed or, if not a natural person, by a person or persons having knowledge of the facts and circumstances relating to such production and/or responsible for answering each interrogatory.

For the purposes of this investigation, the following are designated as the custodian and deputy custodian(s) to whom the documentary material shall be made available and the interrogatory answers shall be submitted: Mary Jean Moltenbrey, Custodian; James D. Villa and Peter J. Mucchetti, Deputy Custodians; U.S. Dept. of Justice, Antitrust Division, 325 Seventh Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20530.

Inquiries concerning compliance should be directed to James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J. Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652.

Your attention is directed to 18 U.S.C. §1505, printed in full on the reverse side of this demand, which makes obstruction of this investigation a criminal offense.

Issued at Washington, D.C., this 24th day of Oct., 1997


Assistant Attorney General

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

I. DEFINITIONS

1. "Agreement" means any contract, arrangement, or understanding, formal or informal, oral or written, direct or indirect, express or implied, between two or more persons.
2. "Marvel" means Marvel Comics, Inc., its predecessors, successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and other persons controlled or owned, directly, indirectly, wholly or in part by it, and each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present and former trustees, directors, officers, employees, agents, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.
3. "Distributor" means any person who sells or distributes comic books on behalf of a publisher on a non-returnable basis and includes each of the distributor's authorized distributors, predecessors, or successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, each other person directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, owned or controlled by any of them, each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present or former officers, directors, agents, employees, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.
4. "Document" means any written, recorded, or graphic material, whether prepared by you or any other person, that is in your possession, custody, or control, including memoranda, reports, letters, telegrams, e-mail, recorded communications, notes, minutes, transcripts, contracts, agreements, statements, ledgers, financial records, notebooks, diaries, diagrams, graphs, charts, drawings, plans, specifications, publications, photographs, photocopies, microfilm, reproductions, and computer tape, disk, recordings and printouts. The term includes all document drafts and copies that differ from the original, such as notations, underlinings, or other markings. The term also includes information stored in, or accessible through, computer or other

information retrieval systems, together with instructions and all other materials necessary to use or interpret such data.

5. "Identify" means to state:

- (a) in the case of a natural person, his or her name, employer, dates of employment, title or position, business address, and telephone number;
- (b) in the case of a person other than a natural person, its name, principal address, contact person, and telephone number; and
- (c) in the case of a legal or administrative proceeding, the case name, names of all involved parties, the court or agency, the case or other identifying number, each party's principal contentions, the beginning date, the ending date, and the proceeding's status or outcome, including the contents of any settlement or consent decree.

6. "Including" means including but not limited to.

7. "Independent distributor" means any person who sells or distributes comic books on behalf of a publisher on a returnable basis and includes each of the distributor's authorized distributors, predecessors, or successors, divisions, parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates, each other person directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, owned or controlled by any of them, each partnership or joint venture to which any of them is a party, and all present or former officers, directors, agents, employees, consultants, or other persons acting for or on behalf of any of them.

8. "Person" means any natural person, corporation, firm, company, sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, association, institute, governmental unit, or other legal entity.

9. "Publisher" means any person, except one operating solely as a distributor or

retailer of comic books, who sells, distributes, supplies, or provides comic books to any other person.

10. "Relating to" means including, stating, discussing, describing, referring to, reflecting, containing, analyzing, studying, reporting on, commenting on, evidencing, constituting, setting forth, considering, recommending, concerning, or pertaining to, in whole or in part.

11. "Retailer" means any comic book specialty store, newsstand, mass-market store, book store, book trader, wholesale club, and any other person that sells directly to consumers.

12. "You," "your" or "your company" means Marvel.

II. INSTRUCTIONS

1. Unless otherwise specified, this schedule calls for answers to interrogatories for, and production of documents prepared, sent, received or in effect at, any time after January 1, 1994.

2. Preface each interrogatory answer with the text of the interrogatory to which that answer responds.

3. If any portion of a document is responsive to any document request, then the entire document must be produced. If any document contains privileged material, produce the entire document with the privileged material deleted. If any document cannot be produced in full for a reason other than a claim of privilege, produce the document to the extent possible, specify why you cannot produce the remainder of the document, and provide any information, knowledge or belief you have concerning the unproduced portion.

4. Any document or part of a document withheld under a claim of privilege must be

preserved. For each document or part of a document that is withheld under a claim of privilege, submit a sworn or certified statement from your attorney or a duly authorized officer of your company in which you:

- (a) identify the document and any attachments or appendices;
- (b) identify all persons to whom copies were sent or distributed and all other persons to whom the document or its contents were disclosed in whole or in part;
- (c) state the document's current location and the name of its current custodian;
- (d) state the basis on which privilege is claimed; and
- (e) state the number of the Request(s) to which the document is responsive.

5. If you refuse to answer an interrogatory pursuant to a privilege, state the nature and the basis of the privilege claimed. If you are unable to answer an interrogatory fully, submit as much information as possible, and explain why your answer is incomplete. If precise information cannot be supplied, (a) submit your best estimate or judgment, so identified, and set out the source or basis of the estimate or judgment, and (b) provide such information available to you as comes closest to providing the information requested. Where incomplete answers, estimates or judgments are submitted, and you know of or have reason to believe that there are other sources of more complete or accurate information, identify or describe those other sources of information.

6. Any documents that are stapled, clipped, or otherwise fastened together shall not be separated. Place all documents in file folders or other enclosures bearing your company's name, the number of the document request to which the documents are responsive, and the individual's name from whose files the documents were produced.

7. Please mark each page with your company's name or abbreviation and number each page consecutively beginning with "1." These marks should be placed at the lower right-hand corner of the page, but should not obscure any information on the document.

8. Machine-readable data responsive to any document request should be provided in a form that does not require specialized or proprietary hardware or software. The data should be readable by a personal computer employing Microsoft DOS and should be produced on 3.5 inch magnetic discs in DOS-compatible form. Provide the following information about the data:

- a. file name;
- b. file format (e.g., ASCII, etc.);
- c. number of bytes;
- d. disk density;
- e. operating system and versions;
- f. record layout (i.e., description, length, and position of each field); and
- g. translation on tables for encoded fields.

If you wish to provide machine-readable documents in a format that differs from these guidelines, please contact James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J. Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652 to determine if the proposed format will be acceptable.

9. No agreement by the Department of Justice or its representatives purporting to modify, limit, or otherwise vary this schedule binds the Department of Justice unless the agreement is confirmed in writing or made in open court by a duly authorized representative.

10. If you have any questions regarding this demand's scope or meaning, or if you wish to discuss any proposed modifications, contact James D. Villa at (202) 514-8361 or Peter J.

Mucchetti at (202) 305-3652.

III. INTERROGATORIES

1. Describe each method by which your comic books are distributed to retailers and sold to consumers and separately for each such method, state the percentage of your total dollar sales of comic books which are made through that method.
2. State whether you distribute comic books using a brokerage agreement with any distributor and if so, state when you began using this arrangement and state each reason for using such an arrangement.
3. Separately for 1994, 1995, 1996, and year to date 1997, identify each distributor who has distributed comic books for you and separately for each distributor, state the total dollar amount of comic books that person distributed for you.
4. Describe each reason you entered into a distributorship agreement with Diamond.
5. Identify each person who has or has had any responsibility for recommending, setting, negotiating, approving, or supervising:
 - (a) your conditions of sale, credit terms, prices, brokerage arrangement or commissions between you and any distributor;
 - (b) your prices, payment or credit terms, or conditions of sale for the comic book sales to any retailer;
 - (c) your marketing or strategic planning; and
 - (d) your purchase of Heroes World.
6. Identify each legal or administrative proceeding brought under any federal or state

antitrust law in which you were a party.

7. Describe all types or kinds of information that you are able obtain electronically from Diamond.

IV. DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. One copy of all organizational charts and telephone directories for your company.
2. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing competition in the publishing, distribution, or retail sales of comic books.
3. For each year 1994, 1995, 1996 and year to date 1997, documents sufficient to show the percentage of your comic books which are distributed to consumers through:
 - (a) independent distributors;
 - (b) comic book distributors (such as Diamond, Capital City, etc.); and
 - (c) all others.
4. Each document that constitutes or contains:
 - (a) any of your operating, marketing or strategic plans; or
 - (b) any study, analysis, projection, or review of the comic book publishing, distribution, or retail industry.
5. For each year 1994, 1995, 1996, and year to date 1997, documents sufficient to identify all comic book publishers, including the total dollar amount of sales for each such publisher.
6. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing entry into the business of publishing or distributing comic books.

7. Each agreement between you and any distributor of comic books.
8. Each agreement between you and any retailer of comic books.
9. Each document relating to any actual or contemplated agreement(s) between you

and:

- (a) DC Comics;
- (b) Image Comics;
- (c) Dark Horse Comics;
- (d) Diamond Comic Distributors; or
- (e) Capital City Distribution.

10. Each document relating to any communication between you and DC Comics, Image, or Dark Horse relating to distribution of comic books.

11. Each document relating to any actual or contemplated distributorship agreement between you and any distributor of comic books.

12. Documents sufficient to show the percentage of your sales of comic books that are made through:

- (a) comic book specialty stores;
- (b) book stores;
- (c) newsstands; and
- (d) other sources.

13. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing customer satisfaction, service quality, complaints, recommendations, or suggestions for improved service relating to distribution of comic books.

14. Each document relating to Diamond's acquisition of Capital City Distribution, Inc.'s assets.

15. Each document relating to your acquisition of Heroes World, including:
- (a) each agreement relating to the acquisition;
 - (b) each minute, agenda, or note from any meeting relating to the acquisition;
 - (c) each document relating to any communication that relates to the acquisition;
 - (d) each document that constitutes or contains any study, survey, or analysis relating to the acquisition;
 - (e) each document relating to any perceived, potential or actual advantage or disadvantage of the acquisition;
 - (f) each document relating to the acquisition's perceived, potential or actual effect on any person, product's sales, or distribution;
 - (g) each document relating to any plan or proposal for changing Heroes World's organization, management, financing, or operations following the acquisition; and
 - (h) each document relating to the acquisition's economic effect or legality under the antitrust laws.

16. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing the reasons you:
- (a) ceased distributing comic books through Heroes World;
 - (b) contracted with R & R Donnelly to distribute your comic books; and
 - (c) contracted with Diamond to distribute your comic books.

17. Each pleading and exhibit filed in Capital City Distribution, Inc. v. Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., Case No. 95-C-0137-S (W.D. Wi., filed March 3, 1995) and Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. v. Capital City Distribution, Inc., Case No. 95-CV-0282 (N.D.N.Y., filed March 3, 1995) and any document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing any settlement reached in those cases.

18. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing any settlement reached in Gold Mountain Entertainment and International Strategic Marketing, Inc. v. Malibu Comics Entertainment, Marvel Entertainment Group, Marvel, Inc., and Scott Rosenburg, Case No. BC 128097 (Los Angeles Superior Court, filed May 19, 1995).

19. Each annual profit and loss, financial statement, and balance sheet from 1994 to 1996, and 1997 year to date.

20. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing changes in your prices, conditions of sale, payment terms, cooperative advertising efforts, promotional plans, discount plans or programs, and credit guidelines for comic book sales to distributors or retailers.

21. Each document discussing, summarizing, reflecting, or analyzing the data, information, reports, or other material which you can obtain electronically from Diamond or through access to Diamond's computers.

22. Each document relating to your policy concerning retention, storage, or destruction of documents.

Is your RETURN ADDRESS completed on the reverse side?

SENDER: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Complete items 1 and/or 2 for additional services.■ Complete items 3, 4a, and 4b.■ Print your name and address on the reverse of this form so that we can return this card to you.■ Attach this form to the front of the mailpiece, or on the back if space does not permit.■ Write "Return Receipt Requested" on the mailpiece below the article number.■ The Return Receipt will show to whom the article was delivered and the date delivered.		I also wish to receive the following services (for an extra fee): <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. <input type="checkbox"/> Addressee's Address2. <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted Delivery Consult postmaster for fee.
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3. Article Addressed to:
Larry Mader
Executive Director
Image Comics, Inc.
1440 North Harbor Blvd.
Suite 305
Fullerton, CA 92835

4a. Article Number
P 142 035 051

4b. Service Type

- Registered Certified
- Express Mail Insured
- Return Receipt for Merchandise COD

7. Date of Delivery
OCT 31 1997

5. Received By: (Print Name)

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)
X C. SPINAZZA

PS Form 3811, December 1994

Domestic Return Receipt

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---	--	---

3. Article Addressed to:

Mark Anderson, Esq.
General Counsel
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 South East Main Street
Milwaukee, OR 97222

4a. Article Number
P 142 035 049

4b. Service Type

- Registered Certified
- Express Mail Insured
- Return Receipt for Merchandise COD

7. Date of Delivery
10/30/97

5. Received By: (Print Name)
R. Hause

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)
X R. Hause

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3. Article Addressed to:

Pamela Bradford, Esq.
General Counsel
Marvel Comics, Inc.
387 Park Avenue, South
New York, NY 10016

4a. Article Number
P 142 035 053

4b. Service Type

- Registered Certified
- Express Mail Insured
- Return Receipt for Merchandise COD

7. Date of Delivery
10/29/97

5. Received By: (Print Name)

8. Addressee's Address (Only if requested and fee is paid)

6. Signature: (Addressee or Agent)
X Pamela Bradford

PS Form 3811, December 1994

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RT

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NUMBER OF REQUESTS IN GROUP: 1

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF LINES: 60

DATE AND TIME PRINTING STARTED: 10/29/97 01:48:58 pm (Central)

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CLIENT IDENTIFIER: COMICS

DATE OF REQUEST: 10/29/97

THE CURRENT DATABASE IS ALLNEWS

YOUR TERMS AND CONNECTORS QUERY:

DA (AFT 10/25/97) & MARVEL & COMICS

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RT

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10/27/97 ADVTGAGE 44

10/27/97 Advert. Age 44

1997 WL 13675252

(Publication page references are not available for this document.)

Advertising Age

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Monday, October 27, 1997

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Robert Pagano to senior VP-group account director, Mullen, Wenham, Mass. Formerly, he was co-chairman and managing partner, Pagano, Schenck & Kay, Boston.

Robin Wolaner to exec VP-technology publishing, CNET, San Francisco, a new position, from chairman, Online Partners.

Mark Bilfield to director of Toyota integrated marketing, Saatchi & Saatchi Worldwide, Torrance, Calif., a new position, from group account director and senior partner, TBWA Chiat/

Day, and managing partner of TBWA's Persuasion Group, both Venice, Calif.

Carol Smith to VP-group publisher, Miller Publishing, New York, a new position, from president, Time Ventures' Parenting Group. She will oversee six recently acquired titles: Tennis, Tennis Buyer's Guide, Snow Country, Snow Country Business, Cruising World and Sailing World.

Robin Raskin adds the title of publisher to that of editor in chief, FamilyPC, New York. She succeeds Barry Briggs, now VP-sales and marketing, ZDNet, San Francisco.

Gregory Ott, 37, to VP-marketing and advertising, Macy's West, San Francisco, from chief of Macy's planning and merchandise information systems. He succeeds Emily White, who left the company.

Kent Aitchison to exec VP-executive creative director, McCann-Erickson Worldwide, Detroit, from senior VP-creative director, Ogilvy & Mather. He succeeds John Mead, who retired earlier this year.

Ed Evangelista, 36, to senior partner-group creative director, J. Walter Thompson USA, New York, a new position, from account director/creative, Messner Vetere Berger McNamee Schmetterer/Euro RSCG.

Helen Issacson to corporate senior VP and head of the Product Marketing Group, Playboy

Enterprises, Chicago, from exec VP-worldwide licensing, Marvel Comics Group.

Gerard McDavitt to VP-management supervisor, Hill Holliday Direct, Boston, from VP-client communications services, Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. He succeeds Karen McCafferty, who left the company.

TABULAR OR GRAPHIC MATERIAL SET FORTH IN THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT DISPLAYABLE

Photo/Graphic: Ed Evangelista; Helen Issacson

---- INDEX REFERENCES ----

NEWS CATEGORY: PEOPLE

Word Count: 269
10/27/97 ADVTGAGE 44
END OF DOCUMENT

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1475392-OZERI,ALISHA B

DATE AND TIME PRINTING STARTED: 10/29/97 01:48:58 pm (Central)

DATE AND TIME PRINTING ENDED: 10/29/97 01:48:58 pm (Central)

OFFLINE TRANSMISSION TIME: 00:00:00

NUMBER OF REQUESTS IN GROUP: 1

NUMBER OF LINES CHARGED: 60

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PRESS RELEASES**PARTIES CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE TO REACH
GLOBAL ACCORD IN MARVEL PROCEEDING**

NEW YORK, N. Y., August 28, 1997 -- Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. (NYSE: MRV) announced today in a bankruptcy court hearing in Wilmington, Delaware that it is unlikely that a previously announced agreement in principle between the Company, its lenders and Toy Biz can be reached.

Negotiations are currently under way between Marvel and its lenders regarding alternative resolutions for the Company's reorganization. In the event that a settlement can not be reached with its bank group, it may be necessary to seek other forms of bankruptcy protection or to dismiss the chapter 11 proceeding. The Court instructed the parties to continue their settlement dialogue, and with the consent of the lenders, permitted Marvel access to its cash collateral through September 16, 1997.

Marvel is continuing its efforts to reduce overhead, consolidate operations, and refocus activity in its key areas including film and television, Internet and new media activities, licensing, and publishing.

Statements in this news release and in the quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1997 such as "intend", "estimated", "believe", "expect", "anticipate" and similar expressions which are not historical are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Such statements include, without limitation, the Company's expectation as to future financial performance. In addition to factors that may be described in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, the following factors, among others, could cause the Company's financial performance to differ materially from that expressed in any forward-looking statements made by, or on behalf of, the Company: (i) the ability of the Company to successfully reorganize in bankruptcy and the timing and outcome of such bankruptcy proceedings; (ii) the ability of the Company to obtain an additional or new DIP loan or other financing; (iii) continued weakness in the comic book market which cannot be overcome by the Company's new editorial and production initiatives in comic publishing; (iv) continued general weakness in the trading card market; (v) the failure of fan interest in baseball to return to traditional levels that existed prior to the 1994 baseball strike thereby negatively affecting the Company's baseball card business; (vi) the effectiveness of the Company's changes to its trading card and publishing distribution; (vii) a decrease in the level of media exposure or popularity of the Company's characters resulting in declining revenues based on such characters; (viii) the lack of continued commercial success of properties owned by major licensors which have granted the Company licenses for its sports and entertainment trading card and sticker businesses; (ix) unanticipated costs or delays in completing projects associated with the Company's new ventures including media, interactive software and on-line services and theme restaurants; (x) consumer acceptance of new product introductions, including those for toys; and (xi) imposition of tariffs or import quotas on toys manufactured in China as a result of a deterioration in trade relations between the U.S. and China.

PRESS RELEASES**MARVEL CONTINUES TO NEGOTIATE**

NEW YORK, N. Y., September 11, 1997 -- Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. (NYSE:MRV) reported that it has advised the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware of significant difficulties negotiating a settlement with its secured lenders, and, as of September 8, no agreement had been reached. Such negotiations include additional debtor-in-possession financing. As a result, Marvel has requested the Court to conduct a hearing to consider an alternative financing proposal which would replace the existing debtor-in-possession financing and provide to Marvel additional operating funds. The Company continues to consider all available legal remedies to promote the best interests of its estate.

Statements in this news release and in the quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1997 such as "intend", "estimated", "believe", "expect", "anticipate" and similar expressions which are not historical are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Such statements include, without limitation, the Company's expectation as to future financial performance. In addition to factors that may be described in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, the following factors, among others, could cause the Company's financial performance to differ materially from that expressed in any forward-looking statements made by, or on behalf of, the Company: (i) the ability of the Company to successfully reorganize in bankruptcy and the timing and outcome of such bankruptcy proceedings; (ii) the ability of the Company to obtain an additional or new DIP loan or other financing; (iii) continued weakness in the comic book market which cannot be overcome by the Company's new editorial and production initiatives in comic publishing; (iv) continued general weakness in the trading card market; (v) the failure of fan interest in baseball to return to traditional levels that existed prior to the 1994 baseball strike thereby negatively affecting the Company's baseball card business; (vi) the effectiveness of the Company's changes to its trading card and publishing distribution; (vii) a decrease in the level of media exposure or popularity of the Company's characters resulting in declining revenues based on such characters; (viii) the lack of continued commercial success of properties owned by major licensors which have granted the Company licenses for its sports and entertainment trading card and sticker businesses; (ix) unanticipated costs or delays in completing projects associated with the Company's new ventures including media, interactive software and on-line services and theme restaurants; (x) consumer acceptance of new product introductions, including those for toys; and (xi) imposition of tariffs or import quotas on toys manufactured in China as a result of a deterioration in trade relations between the U.S. and China.

PRESS RELEASES



MARVEL SAYS AGREEMENT WITH BANK CREDITORS UNRAVELS ALTHOUGH MORE THAN 50% OF BANKS APPROVE DEAL

Company Will Seek New Financing From High River And Westgate To Avoid Liquidation

NEW YORK, N. Y., OCTOBER 8, 1997 -- Marvel Entertainment Group (NYSE: MRV) announced today that a comprehensive settlement agreement struck two weeks ago among Marvel, High River Limited Partnership and Westgate International, L.P, and The Chase Manhattan Bank, the agent for a syndicate of bank lenders, has unraveled although more than 50% of banks approved the deal. Chase advised Marvel that more than half of the bank lenders supported the deal but that it was unable to achieve the requisite two thirds' support.

Marvel stated that it will seek to obtain new financing from High River and Westgate over the objections of the banks and will vigorously defend against the banks' efforts to appoint a Chapter 11 trustee in the 10-month old bankruptcy case. Marvel believes that the appointment of any trustee at this time would be extremely detrimental to an already very unstable situation. Additionally, the bank lenders have opposed any new borrowings by Marvel that could be repaid ahead of their existing loans. The Company stated that without new financing, Marvel may not be able to avoid a piece-meal liquidation and has no choice but to continue to pursue litigation against the banks in an effort to save the Company. The next hearing in Marvel's bankruptcy proceedings has been scheduled for October 24, 1997.

Under the terms of the agreement-in-principle reached on September 22 and finalized on September 29, 1997, High River (an entity controlled by Carl C. Icahn), and Westgate (a New York-based money management firm) were to have purchased all pre- and post-petition bank claims from Marvel's bank lenders in exchange for \$385 million in cash and the transfer of Marvel's Panini S.p.A. sticker business. High River and Westgate had already funded an escrow account in the amount of \$385 million. The \$385 million deposit will now be returned to High River and Westgate.

Chase had until October 7, 1997 to deliver necessary consents from syndicate members and the Bankruptcy Court had scheduled a hearing for approval of the comprehensive settlement agreement for October 24, 1997. The Company said it was extremely distressed to learn of Chase's failure to obtain the necessary consents, after Chase kept Marvel, High River and Westgate in round-the-clock negotiations during the last three months, apparently without the requisite support of its member banks. The Company added that Marvel's cash position is at a dangerously low level due, in no small part, to the demands and actions of the banks. The Company added that it is concerned about the loss of vendor, supplier and employee support. In particular, the Company has recently lost the head of its licensing department and is concerned about its ability to retain other key personnel.

In connection with today's announcement by Toy Biz of its proposal to merge with Marvel, the Company

said that it has not yet received any proposal nor has it had any discussions with Toy Biz about said proposal. Marvel added that it is highly skeptical of this proposal, given Toy Biz's track record of abandoning three prior agreements-in-principle on this matter. In any event, Marvel believes that the Toy Biz Board of Directors is improperly constituted and therefore does not have the authority to make any proposals or enter into any agreements at this time.

Marvel Entertainment Group is a world leader in the production and licensing of superhero-themed entertainment, spanning a wide array of media including comic books, television, film, theme parks and restaurants. Building upon its foundation as the No. 1 comic book company, other operations of Marvel include Marvel Studios, a live-action and animated film and television production company; Fleer, Marvel's trading card company; Marvel Interactive, creators of digital software, CD-ROMS, video games and online service product; and an equity position in Toy Biz. Marvel is available on America Online at Keyword: Marvel and can be accessed on the Internet at www.marvel.com.

Statements in this news release and in the quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 1997 such as "intend", "estimated", "believe", "expect", "anticipate" and similar expressions which are not historical are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Such statements include, without limitation, the Company's expectation as to future financial performance. In addition to factors that may be described in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, the following factors, among others, could cause the Company's financial performance to differ materially from that expressed in any forward-looking statements made by, or on behalf of, the Company: (i) the ability of the Company to successfully reorganize in bankruptcy and the timing and outcome of such bankruptcy proceedings; (ii) the ability of the Company to obtain an additional or new DIP loan or other financing; (iii) continued weakness in the comic book market which cannot be overcome by the Company's new editorial and production initiatives in comic publishing; (iv) continued general weakness in the trading card market; (v) the failure of fan interest in baseball to return to traditional levels that existed prior to the 1994 baseball strike thereby negatively affecting the Company's baseball card business; (vi) the effectiveness of the Company's changes to its trading card and publishing distribution; (vii) a decrease in the level of media exposure or popularity of the Company's characters resulting in declining revenues based on such characters; (viii) the lack of continued commercial success of properties owned by major licensors which have granted the Company licenses for its sports and entertainment trading card and sticker businesses; (ix) unanticipated costs or delays in completing projects associated with the Company's new ventures including media, interactive software and on-line services and theme restaurants; (x) consumer acceptance of new product introductions, including those for toys; and (xi) imposition of tariffs or import quotas on toys manufactured in China as a result of a deterioration in trade relations between the U.S. and China.



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

*Liberty Place Building
Washington, DC 20530*

November 5, 1997

MJM: JDV
60-2721-0009

VIA FACSIMILE

Irving Scher, Esq.
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10153-0119

Re: Response to Civil Investigative Demand 17159

Dear Irv:

Based on the telephone conference last night between you, me, and Lillian Laserson of DC Comics ("DC"), the Department of Justice ("Department") has agreed to the following clarifications and modifications of DC's response to the above-referenced civil investigative demand ("CID").

(b)(3), 1314(g)

(b)(3), 1314(g)

If any of the statements in this letter do not correspond with your understanding of our agreements, please contact me at (202) 514-8361 so that we may discuss them.

Sincerely yours,



James D. Villa

Trial Attorney

United States Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Civil Task Force

325 7th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

Fax Number: (202) 307-9952

Voice Number: (202) 514-8361



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: November 5, 1997

TO: Irving Scher

of: Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Fax Number: (212) 310-8007

FROM: James D. Villa

Pages Sent (including this sheet): 3

Remarks: See attached letter

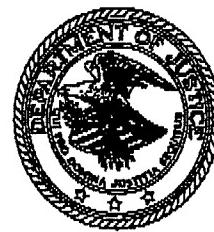
** CONFIRMATION REPORT **

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United States Department of Justice

Antitrust Division
Civil Task Force
325 7th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Fax Number: (202) 307-9952
Voice Number: (202) 514-8361



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: November 5, 1997
TO: Irving Scher
of: Weil, Gotshal & Manges
Fax Number: (212) 310-8007
FROM: James D. Villa

SF-Comics Distributor Bankrupt

AUTHOR: Broadfoot, Lisa

Quill & Quire v. 61(10) October, 1995 pg 20

WORD COUNT: 413 RECORD TYPE: Fulltext

TEST: SF-COMICS DISTRIBUTOR BANKRUPT

The demise of Andromeda Distributing, one of Canada's largest distributors of science fiction books and comics, has left several publishers on the hook for tens of thousands of dollars, and specialty booksellers scrambling to find alternate sources of inventory.

Andromeda owner Ron Van Leeuwan declared bankruptcy in April, blaming the failure of his 13-year-old enterprise on the loss of two major accounts, late payments by booksellers, and the declining value of the Canadian dollar. Records on file with the Ontario Court of Justice bankruptcy offices indicate Andromeda lost \$590,000 in 1994; its liabilities amount to a little more than \$2.7-million.

Among the company's largest unsecured creditors are Bantam Books of Canada and Random House of Canada, each owed more than \$13,000. Also owed money are HarperCollins and Distican, about \$9,000 each; McClelland & Stewart, \$7,000; and Little, Brown, \$6,000.

In the past year, both Marvel and DC Comics, America's two largest comic book publishers, announced new exclusive Canadian distribution relationships, eliminating at a stroke about 50% of Andromeda's business. Jim Brigham, a former book buyer for Andromeda, says the loss of the two comic book lines was a "portent of doom," adding that the company had begun falling behind in its payments to suppliers, and was having "big problems with cash flow and management."

Van Leeuwan still runs independently incorporated book and comic retail outlets under the name Silver Snail Comics in three locations in Toronto and one in Hamilton, Ontario, the latter of which he is hoping to sell and relocate. Van Leeuwan is also trying to sell the Queen Street building in Toronto that houses Silver Snail's flagship store. "The sale of the building will help pay off [Andromeda's] creditors," he says. "I wanted to move the store anyway. We're looking for a bigger location, hopefully in the same neighborhood."

For SF retailers in Toronto, Andromeda's demise has meant some ordering changes, and greater difficulty in obtaining titles that only Andromeda distributed in Canada. "We always dealt directly with Andromeda for book and magazines," says Bakka Books owner John Rose. Companies such as the Big Picture, run by former Andromeda employee Robert Meyer, and Burlington-based Multibook and Periodical aim to fill the void.

Andromeda was also a major SF wholesaler, carrying many titles from Bantam, Little Brown, and Ballantine/Random House. Since April, some publishers say their sales of SF titles have dropped off, fueling speculation that a growing number of bookstores may be sourcing directly from the U.S.

COMPANY NAMES: Andromeda Distributing

DESCRIPTORS: Publishers and publishing - Distribution; Business failures?



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Liberty Place Building
Washington, DC 20530

November 7, 1997

MJM: JDV
60-2721-0009

VIA FACSIMILE

Irving Scher, Esq.
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10153-0119

COMICS
60-2721-0009
~~MOLLENBREY~~
EDELHEIT
CTF FILES
MUCCHETTI
VILLA
OSMER
OZERI
ALEXANDER
DUNHAM

Re: Clarifications to DC's Response to Civil Investigative Demand 17159

Dear Irv:

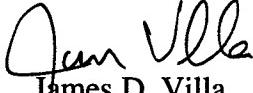
I have reviewed your letter dated today in which you seek to clarify certain issues relating to the response of DC Comics, Inc. ("DC") to the above-referenced civil investigative demand ("CID"). Below is the Department's response to each of the points you raised.

(b)(3), 1314(g)

(b)(3), 1314(g)

If any of the statements in this letter do not correspond with your understanding of our agreements or you would like to discuss further, please contact me at (202) 514-8361 so that we may discuss.

Sincerely yours,


James D. Villa
Trial Attorney

** CONFIRMATION REPORT **

TRANSMISSION
TRANSACTION(S) COMPLETED

NO.	DATE/TIME	DESTINATION	DURATION PGS	STATUS	MODE
236	NOV. 10 16:32		82123108007 0° 00' 46" 003	OK	N ECM

Remarks:

Pages Sent (including this sheet): 3

FROM:

James D. Villa

Fax Number:

(212) 310-8007

of:

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

TO:

Living Scher

DATE:

November 7, 1997

FAX COVER SHEET

United States Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Civil Task Force

325 7th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

Fax Number: (202) 307-9952

Voice Number: (202) 514-8361



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: November 7, 1997

TO: Irving Scher

of: Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Fax Number: (212) 310-8007

FROM: James D. Villa

Pages Sent (including this sheet): 3

Remarks:

United States Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Civil Task Force

325 Seventh Street, N.W., Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20530

Fax Number: (202)514-8397

Voice Number: (202) 616-9259



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: November 7, 1997

TO: Elaine Johnston, Esq.

of: White & Case

Fax Number: (212) 354-8113

FROM:

(b)(6)

Pages Sent (including this sheet): 3

Remarks: Ms. Johnston, I am a paralegal working for Jim Villa. Per his request, I have attached a copy of the letter from Peter Mucchetti to Paul Shapiro, dated June 19, 1997, containing the Division's request that Marvel not destroy documents concerning the comic book industry. I have also attached a copy of both sides of the return receipt.



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Liberty Place Building
325 7th Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20530

June 19, 1997

MJM:PJM
60-2721-0009

By Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

Paul Shapiro, Esq.
General Counsel
Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc.
387 Park Avenue, South
New York, New York 10016-8810

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

The Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice is currently investigating potentially anticompetitive conduct in the comic book industry. This letter serves to inform you that Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., its employees, agents, and representatives should preserve and not destroy any documents relating to comic book distribution, including documents relating to agreements with comic distributors.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me as soon as possible at (202) 305-3652.

Sincerely yours,

Peter J. Mucchetti

Peter J. Mucchetti
Attorney, Civil Task Force

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

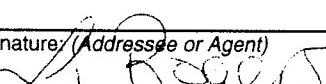
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(M1) Peter J. Mucchetti, Attorney
Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
Liberty Place Building, Civil Task Force

325 7th Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20530

#60-2721-0009

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3. Article Addressed to: Paul Shapiro, Esq. General Counsel Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. 387 Park Avenue, South New York, New York 10016-8810	4a. Article Number P 142 297 668	
5. Received By: (Print Name)	4b. Service Type <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Insured <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise <input type="checkbox"/> COD	
6. Signature (Addressee or Agent) 	7. Date of Delivery 6/25/97	
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PS Form 3811, December 1994

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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: November 7, 1997.

TO: Elaine Johnston, Esq.

of: White & Case

Fax Number: (212) 354-8113

FROM: (b)(6)

Pages Sent (including this sheet): 3

Remarks: Ms. Johnston, I am a paralegal working for Jim Villa. Per his request, I have attached a copy of the letter from Peter Mucchetti to Paul Shapiro, dated June 19, 1997, containing the Division's request that Marvel not destroy documents concerning the comic book industry. I have also attached a copy of both sides of the return receipt.

NO.	DATE/TIME	DESTINATION	DURATION PGS	STATUS	MODE	TRANSMISSION TRANSACTION(S) COMPLETED	
						726 NOV. 7 11:38	212+819+7583 0.00 .44" 003 OK N ECM
** CONFIRMATION REPORT **							



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

*Liberty Place Building
Washington, DC 20530*

November 12, 1997

COMICS
60-2721-0009
[REDACTED]
MORTENBREY
EDELHEIT
CTF FILES
MUCCHETTI
VILLA
DSMER
DZERI
ALEXANDER
DUNHAM

MJM: JDV
60-2721-0009

VIA FACSIMILE

Irving Scher, Esq.
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10153-0119

Re: Clarifications to DC's Response to Civil Investigative Demand 17159

Dear Irv:

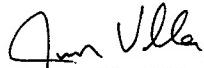
We have reviewed your November 10, 1997 fax concerning DC Comics, Inc.'s response to Civil Investigative Demand 17159 and make the following clarifications to the CID:

(b)(3), 1314(g)

(b)(3), 1314(g)

Please contact me at (202) 514-8361 if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely yours,


James D. Villa
Trial Attorney

TRANSMISSION REPORT

(WED) NOV 12 1997 16:55

ANTITRUST CTF II

DOCUMENT #	3561021-787
TIME STORED	11. 12 16:54
TIME SENT	11. 12 16:54
DURATION	48"
DESTINATION	212 310 8007
DST. TEL#	82123108007
MODE	ECM
PAGE (S)	3PAGE (S)
RESULT	OK
DEPARTMENT	

United States Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Civil Task Force

325 7th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

Fax Number: (202) 307-9952

Voice Number: (202) 514-8361



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: November 12, 1997

TO: Irving Scher

of: Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Fax Number: (212) 310-8007

FROM: James D. Villa

Pages Sent (including this sheet): 3

Remarks:



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

*Liberty Place Building
325 7th Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20530*

November 19, 1997

COMICS
60-2721-0009
MOLTENBREY
EDELHEIT
CTF FILES
MUCCHETTI
VILLA
OSMER
OZERI
ALEXANDER
DUNHAM

MJM: PJM
60-2721-0009

VIA FACSIMILE

*Howard M. Privette, Esq.
Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison
550 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2604*

Re: Response to Civil Investigative Demand 17161

Dear Howard:

As we discussed by phone today, Image Comics, Inc. ("Image") and the Department of Justice have agreed to modify Civil Investigative Demand 17161 as follows:

(b)(3), 1314(g)

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at (202) 305-3652 as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Pete
Peter J. Mucchetti
Trial Attorney



U. S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

*Liberty Place Building
Washington, DC 20530*

November 19, 1997

MJM: JDV
60-2721-0009

VIA FACSIMILE

Martin M. Toto, Esq.
White & Case
1155 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-2787

Re: Response to Civil Investigative Demand 17162

Dear Marty:

Based on the telephone discussions over the last several days between the Department of Justice ("Department") and your firm, the Department has agreed to the following clarifications and modifications of the response of Marvel Comics, Inc. ("Marvel") to the above-referenced civil investigative demand ("CID").

(b)(3), 1314(g)

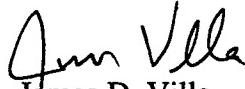
(b)(3), 1314(g)

(b)(3), 1314(g)

(b)(3), 1314(g)

If any of the statements in this letter do not correspond with your understanding of our agreements, please contact me at (202) 514-8361 so that we may discuss them.

Sincerely yours,


James D. Villa
Trial Attorney

TRANSMISSION REPORT

(WED) NOV 19 1997 15:17

ANTITRUST CTF II

DOCUMENT #	3561021-823
TIME STORED	11. 19 15:14
TIME SENT	11. 19 15:14
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DESTINATION	2128192580
DST. TEL#	82123548113
MODE	G3
PAGE (S)	6PAGE (S)
RESULT	OK
DEPARTMENT	

United States Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

Civil Task Force

325 7th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

Fax Number: (202) 307-9952

Voice Number: (202) 514-8361



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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: November 19, 1997

TO: Martin Toto

of: White & Case

Fax Number: (212) 354-8113

FROM: James D. Villa

Pages Sent (including this sheet): 6

Remarks: Marty, per our discussions.